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1963-1993

WEB OF SPIDER-MAN

ANNUAL

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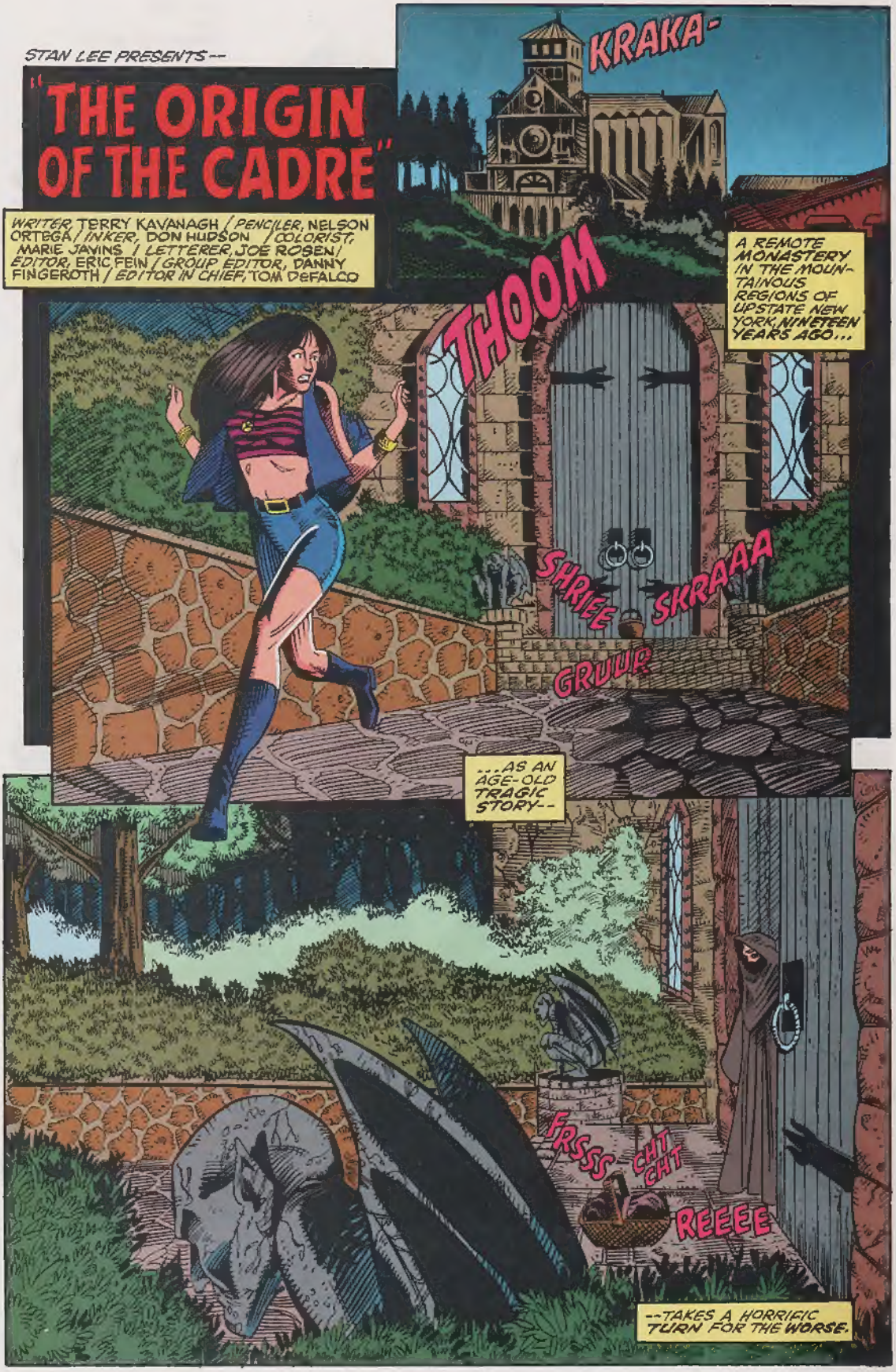
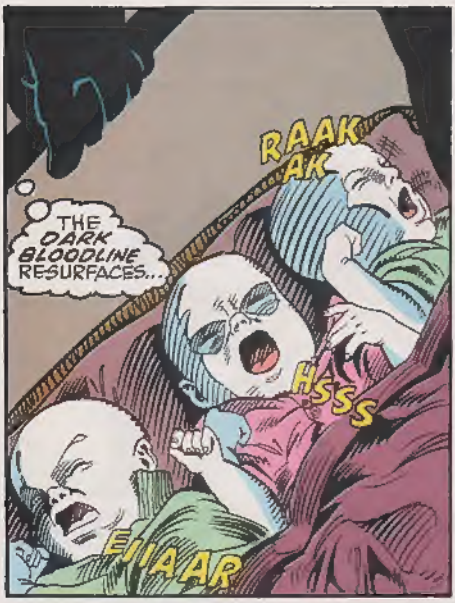
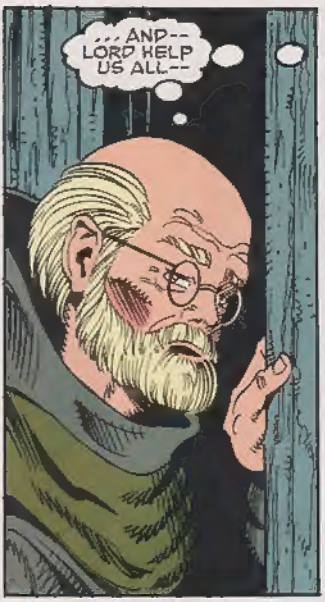
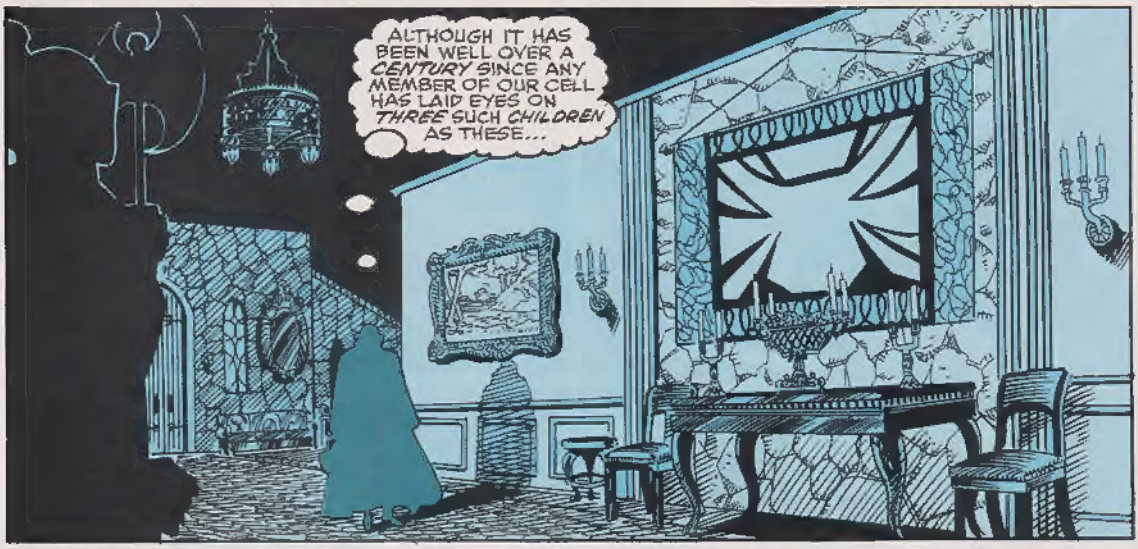

STAN LEE PRESENTS --
"THE ORIGIN OF THE CADRE"
WRITER, TERRY KAVANAGH / PENCILER, NELSON ORTEGA / INKER, DON HUDSON / COLORIST, MARIE JAVINS / LETTERER, JOE ROSEN / EDITOR, ERIC FEIN / GROUP EDITOR, DANNY FINGEROTH / EDITOR IN CHIEF, TOM DeFALCO
KRAKA-
A REMOTE MONASTERY IN THE MOUNTAINOUS REGIONS OF UPSTATE NEW YORK, NINETEEN YEARS AGO...
THOOM
SHRIEE
SKRAAA
GRUUP
...AS AN AGE-OLD TRAGIC STORY--
FRSSS
CHT CHT
REEEE
--TAKES A HORRIFIC TURN FOR THE WORSE.

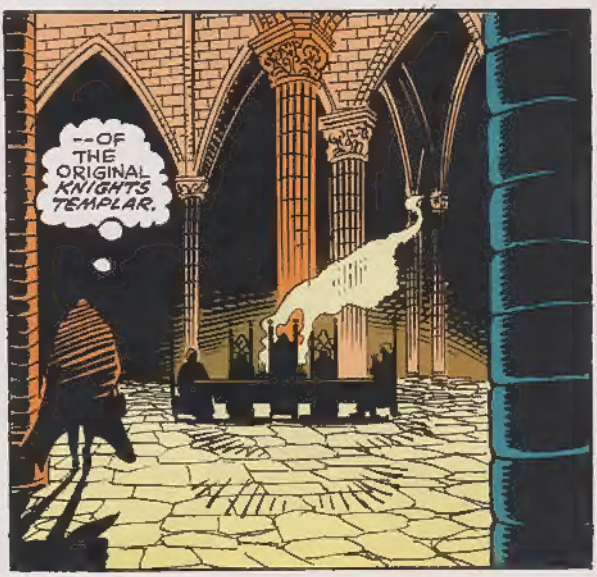

THE DARK BLOODLINE RESURFACES...
RAAK
AK
HSSS
EIIAAR

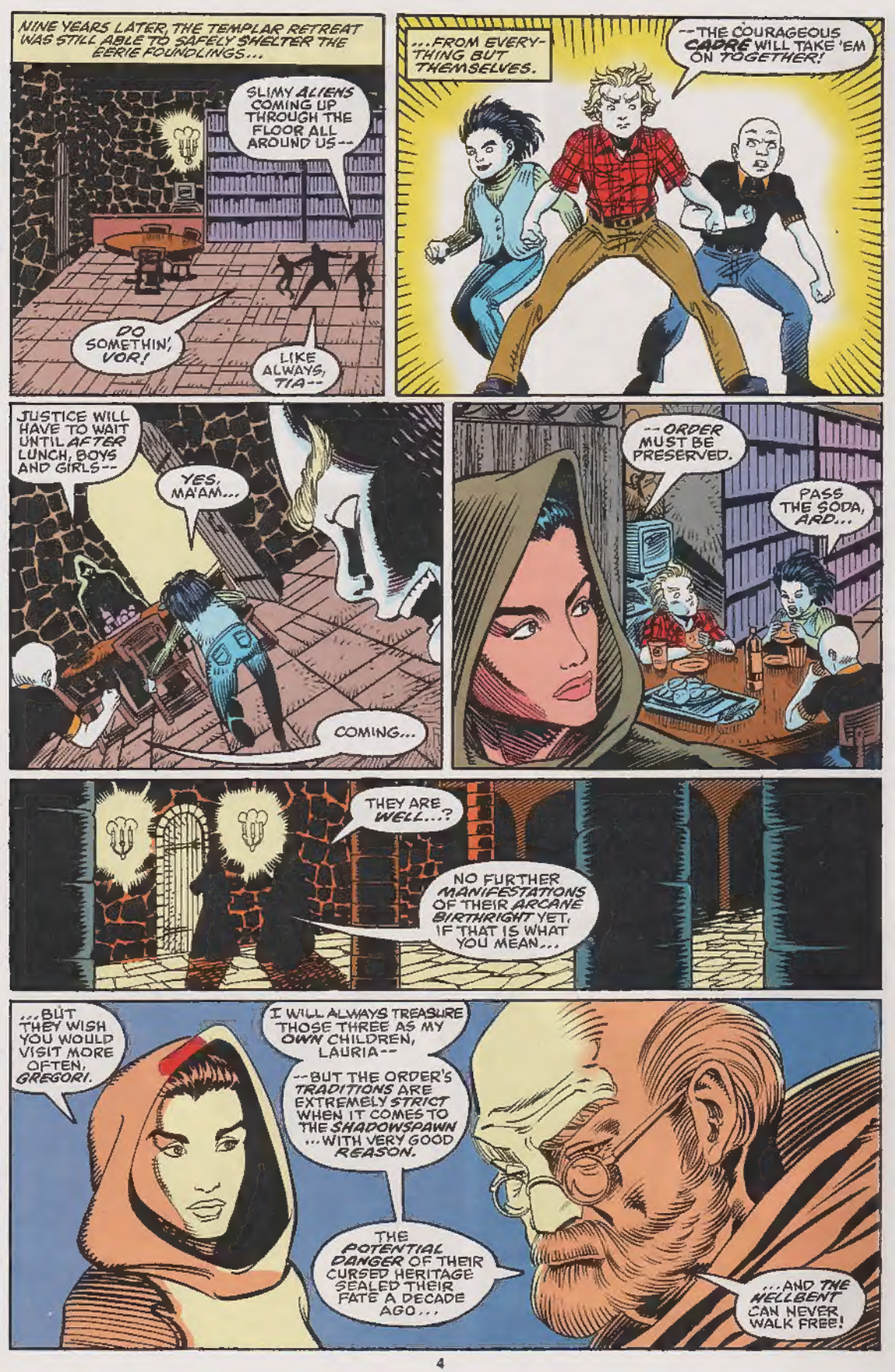

...AND--LORD HELP US ALL--

--OUR ORDER STILL REMAINS THEIR SOLE SANCTUARY.
KTHOOM

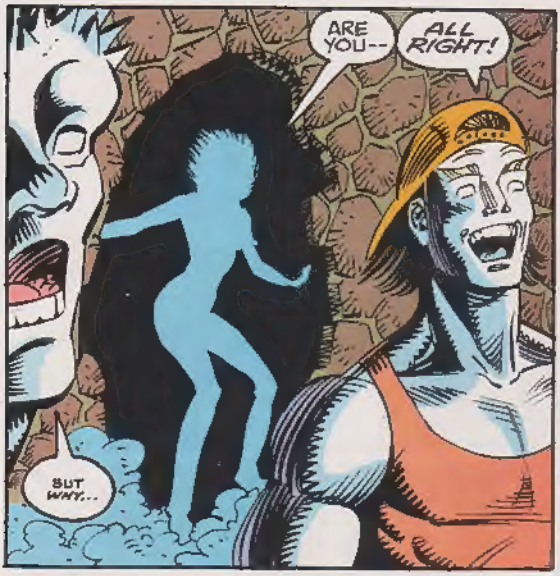

ALTHOUGH IT HAS BEEN WELL OVER A CENTURY SINCE ANY MEMBER OF OUR CELL HAS LAID EYES ON THREE SUCH CHILDREN AS THESE...

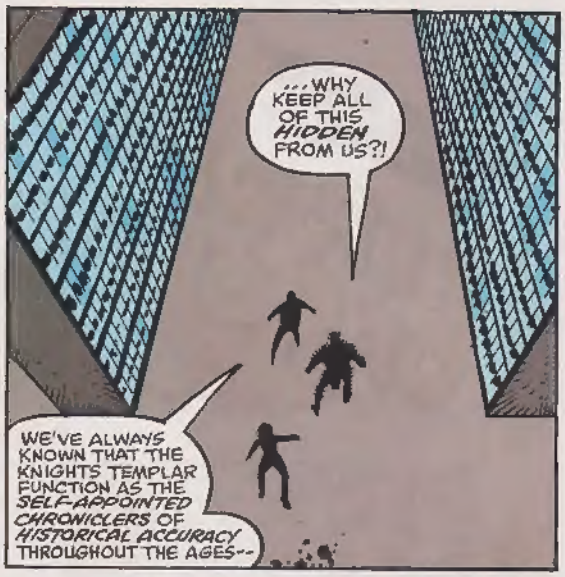
...NO ONE OF US COULD FAIL TO RECOGNIZE THE TAINTED LEGACY--
RICE
WINE

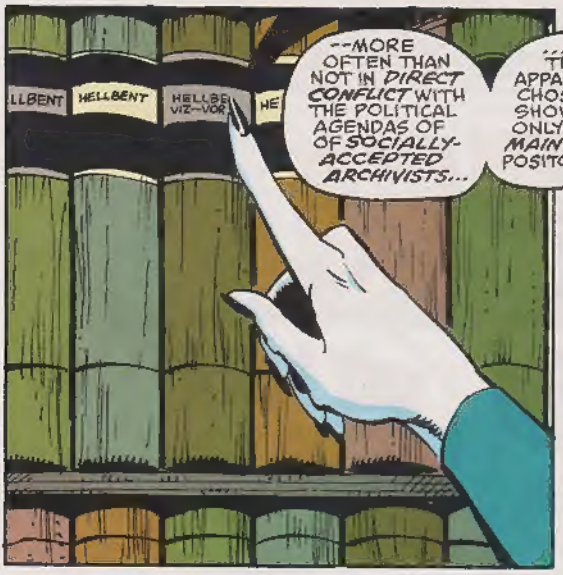

--OF THE ORIGINAL KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.


NINE YEARS LATER, THE TEMPLAR RETREAT WAS STILL ABLE TO SAFELY SHELTER THE EERIE FOUNDLINGS...
SLIMY ALIENS COMING UP THROUGH THE FLOOR ALL AROUND US--
DO SOMETHIN', VOR!
LIKE ALWAYS, TIA--
...FROM EVERY-THING BUT THEMSELVES.
--THE COURAGEOUS CADRE WILL TAKE 'EM ON TOGETHER!
JUSTICE WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER LUNCH, BOYS AND GIRLS--
YES, MA'AM...
COMING...
--ORDER MUST BE PRESERVED.
PASS THE SODA, ARD...
THEY ARE WELL...?
NO FURTHER MANIFESTATIONS OF THEIR ARCANE BIRTHRIGHT YET, IF THAT IS WHAT YOU MEAN...
...BUT THEY WISH YOU WOULD VISIT MORE OFTEN, GREGORI.
I WILL ALWAYS TREASURE THOSE THREE AS MY OWN CHILDREN, LAURIA--
--BUT THE ORDER'S TRADITIONS ARE EXTREMELY STRICT WHEN IT COMES TO THE SHADOWSPAWN ...WITH VERY GOOD REASON.
THE POTENTIAL DANGER OF THEIR CURSED HERITAGE SEALED THEIR FATE A DECADE AGO...
...AND THE HELLBENT CAN NEVER WALK FREE!

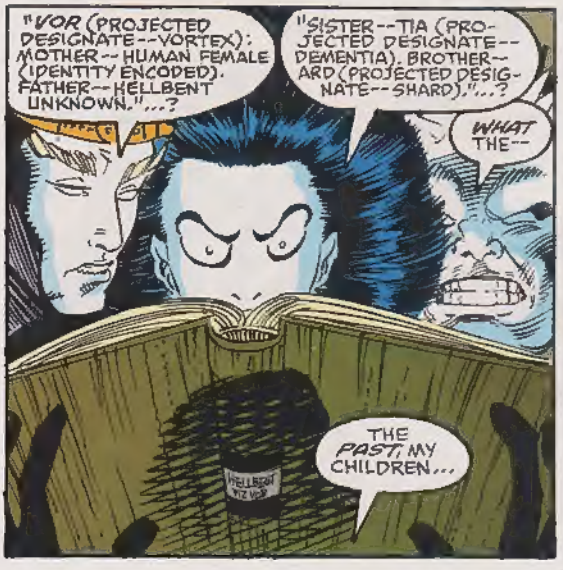
SIX YEARS LATER...
...DEEP BELOW THE MONASTARY, THE HIDEOUS TRUTH BEGINS TO BECOME ALL-TOO- PAINFULLY OBVIOUS.
VOR'S OBVIOUSLY PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES AGAIN...
CADRE GAMES SHOULDN'T TAKES US THIS DEEP INTO THE TUNNELS, ARD...
...THE TEMPLARS WON'T LIKE--
YEEIII!
WHO--?!
W-WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU?!
ARD, WAIT--
BEHIND ME, TIA!
CHT
CHT
NO...!
VWOOOSH
--IT'S VOR!
SKRAASH
WHUD
REALLY SORRY, SIS-- NO IDEA WHAT JUST HAPPENED TO US...
...BUT THIS GAME SUDDENLY GOT VERY INTERESTING.
ARD...?


ARE YOU--
ALL RIGHT!
BUT WHY...


...WHY KEEP ALL OF THIS HIDDEN FROM US?!
WE'VE ALWAYS KNOWN THAT THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR FUNCTION AS THE SELF-APPOINTED CHRONICLERS OF HISTORICAL ACCURACY THROUGHOUT THE AGES--

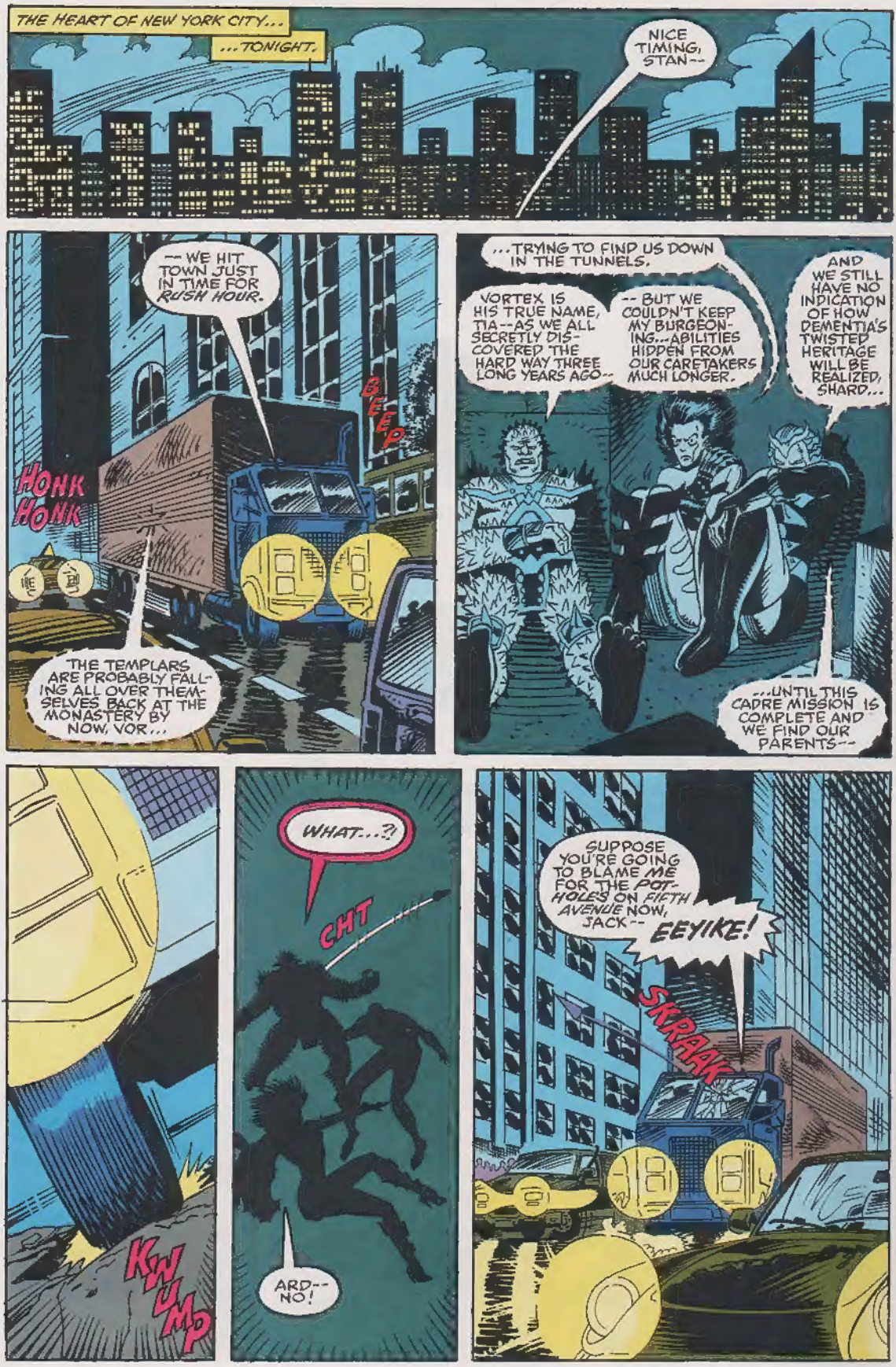

LLBENT
HELLBENT
HELLBE VIZ--VOR
HE
--MORE OFTEN THAN NOT IN DIRECT CONFLICT WITH THE POLITICAL AGENDAS OF OF SOCIALLY-ACCEPTED ARCHIVISTS...
...BUT THEY APPARENTLY CHOSE TO SHOW US ONLY THE MAIN RE-POSITORY.

WHOLE SECRET CHAMBER'S SOME KIND OF GENE-OLOGY LIBRARY...
--I THINK YOU GUYS MIGHT WANT TO SEE THIS...


"VOR (PROJECTED DESIGNATE--VORTEX): MOTHER--HUMAN FEMALE (IDENTITY ENCODED). FATHER--HELLBENT UNKNOWN."...?
"SISTER--TIA (PROJECTED DESIGNATE--DEMENTIA). BROTHER--ARD (PROJECTED DESIGNATE--SHARD)."...?
WHAT THE--
THE PAST, MY CHILDREN...

GREGORI--!?
...IS A BOOK FOREVER CLOSED TO YOU.
WUMP

BUT YESTERDAY...
...EVERYTHING CHANGED.
CAREFUL WITH THAT LAST CASE, JACK--
THESE SPOOKS GET REAL CRANKY WHEN WE SPILL THEIR PRECIOUS WINE.
I JUST WANT TO BE HALFWAY BACK TO MANHATTAN BY DAWN, STAN...
...AS FAR FROM THIS CREEPY PLACE AS POSSIBLE.
THIS FACTION SUSPECTS NOTHING YET-- LEAST OF ALL, A TRAITOR FROM WITHIN THEIR OWN SACRED RANKS --
--BUT THE BEGINNING OF THE END IS UPON THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.
AND THIS ATTACK WILL BRING US CLOSER TO THE ULTIMATE POWER THAT I CRAVE.
ALL MUST DIE TONIGHT.
"THY WILL SHALL BE DONE, LORD SETH."
SKRAASH
HELLBENT!?
SETH SENDS HIS REGRETS, KEEPER...
THE IMMORTAL HIMSELF HAS BETRAYED US--?!
REST IN PIECES, KNIGHT!


THE HEART OF NEW YORK CITY...
...TONIGHT.
NICE TIMING, STAN--
-- WE HIT TOWN JUST IN TIME FOR RUSH HOUR.
BEEP
HONK HONK
THE TEMPLARS ARE PROBABLY FALLING ALL OVER THEMSELVES BACK AT THE MONASTERY BY NOW, VOR...
...TRYING TO FIND US DOWN IN THE TUNNELS.
VORTEX IS HIS TRUE NAME, TIA--AS WE ALL SECRETLY DISCOVERED THE HARD WAY THREE LONG YEARS AGO--
-- BUT WE COULDN'T KEEP MY BURGEONING...ABILITIES HIDDEN FROM OUR CARETAKERS MUCH LONGER.
AND WE STILL HAVE NO INDICATION OF HOW DEMENTIA'S TWISTED HERITAGE WILL BE REALIZED, SHARD...
...UNTIL THIS CADRE MISSION IS COMPLETE AND WE FIND OUR PARENTS--
KWUMP
WHAT...?!
CHT
ARD-- NO!
SUPPOSE YOU'RE GOING TO BLAME ME FOR THE POTHOLES ON FIFTH AVENUE NOW, JACK--
EEYIKE!
SKRAAK

Stan Lee presents
CHAOS... IS THE CADRE!
THE CURRENT THREAT TO THE EVER-TROUBLED CITY BELOW...
...IS TRULY A WORLD AND A LIFETIME AWAY FROM THE ART-DECO ELEGANCE OF THE RAINBOW ROOM, HIGH ATOP ROCKEFELLER CENTER.
HAVE WE MET SOMEWHERE BEFORE, MS. WATSON?
IN YOUR WILDEST FANTASIES, MR. PARKER...
...I HOPE.
BUT THE NAME IS WATSON-PARKER, TIGER...
TERRY KAVANASH, WRITER CHRIS MARRINAN, PENCILER KEITH WILLIAMS, INKER
JON BABCOCK, JOE ROSEN AND RICK PARKER, LETTERS JOE ROSAS, COLORIST
ERIC FEIN, EDITOR DANNY FINGEROTH, GROUP EDITOR TOM DEFALCO EDITOR in CHIEF

...AND I BELIEVE OUR TABLE AWAITS
I WAS AFRAID OF THAT...
CHIN UP, SAILOR--THE TASTE IS WELL WORTH THE TROUBLE...
JUST NEVER GOT THE HANG OF LOBSTER
ENOUGH'S ENOUGH, PETER.
ALL NIGHT YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR THINGS TO COMPLAIN ABOUT. WHY CAN'T WE EVER HAVE A SIMPLE NIGHT OUT FOR OURSELVES?
WHY ARE YOU SO UPTIGHT? IS IT BECAUSE I'M FOOTING THE BILL FOR THIS EVENING?
NO, OF COURSE NOT!
AS A 90'S HUSBAND, I RESENT THE IMPLICATION...
...EVEN IF IT'S TRUE.
I'VE JUST GOT SO MUCH ON MY MIND-- I WORRY ABOUT THE HEALTH RISKS YOU'RE TAKING BY--
TYPE A PERSONALITY.. RUNS IN THE FAMILY.
TOUCHÉ, MJ...
...BUT CHANGING THE SUBJECT HAS BECOME A PRETTY WELL-REFINED DEFLECTION TECHNIQUE FOR YOU BY THIS POINT.
AND THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT EVERYONE IS ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR OWN ACTIONS ...INCLUDING--
SPIDER-SENSE KICKING IN...!
KRAKASH!
INCLUDING THIS?!
MJ... HONEY..

-I'M SORRY
SAVE IT
I'LL BE GONE FOR HOWEVER LONG IT TAKES TO SOAK MELTED BUTTER OUT OF SILK.
MAYBE I DESERVED IT--I HAVE BEEN RIDING HER PRETTY HARD LATELY ABOUT HER SMOKING...
...BUT IT'S REALLY NOT LIKE MJ TO OVERREACT LIKE THAT.
THEN AGAIN, EVERYBODY IN THIS PLACE SEEMS TO BE ON EDGE ABOUT SOMETHING--
--AND THE REACTION FROM MY TRUSTY SPIDER-SENSE INDICATES THAT THE SOURCE OF THIS LOW-LEVEL PARANOIA...
...IS SOMEWHERE DOWN THERE.
SORRY--GOT TO FEED THE PARKING METER!
GOTCHA, BUDDY. GO FOR IT.
HAVE TO LOVE NEW YORKERS--
--THEY NEVER LET CONVENTION STAND IN THE WAY OF CIVIC DUTY...

...AND I LIKE TO THINK THEY DON'T MAKE 'EM ANY MORE ECCENTRIC THAN THE EVER-AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!
THWIP
THWIP
MAYBE "UNIQUE" WOULD BE A BETTER CHOICE OF WORDS...

BUT RADIOACTIVE ARACHNIDS DON'T MAKE A HABIT OF ENDOWING UNSUSPECTING SCIENCE STUDENTS WITH THE PROPORTIONATE SPEED AND STRENGTH OF A SPIDER...
...NOT TO MENTION THE MANY OTHER HANDY ABILITIES THAT COME HIGHLY RECOMMENDED FOR MY CHOSEN FIELD OF WEB-SWINGING AND WALL-CRAWLING.
GOOD THING, TOO--CITY'S OBVIOUSLY GOT ENOUGH PROBLEMS ALREADY...
AAROOOWA
AAROOOWA
OOOH
PETER...?
WAITER...
...CHECK, PLEASE--
--NOW!

NO IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON YET.
...BUT THE WAVE OF DANGER FEELS LIKE IT'S PASSED--
SPIDER-SENSE AGAIN... OUT OF NOWHERE!
WHOAa--!
COMPLETELY LOST MY GRIP..
...IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE
THWIP
THWIP
SUDDEN VERTIGO ATTACK...NO PERSPECTIVE..
HAVE TO FIRE BLIND AND HOPE I--
THWIP
--HIT SOMETHING.
WHUD

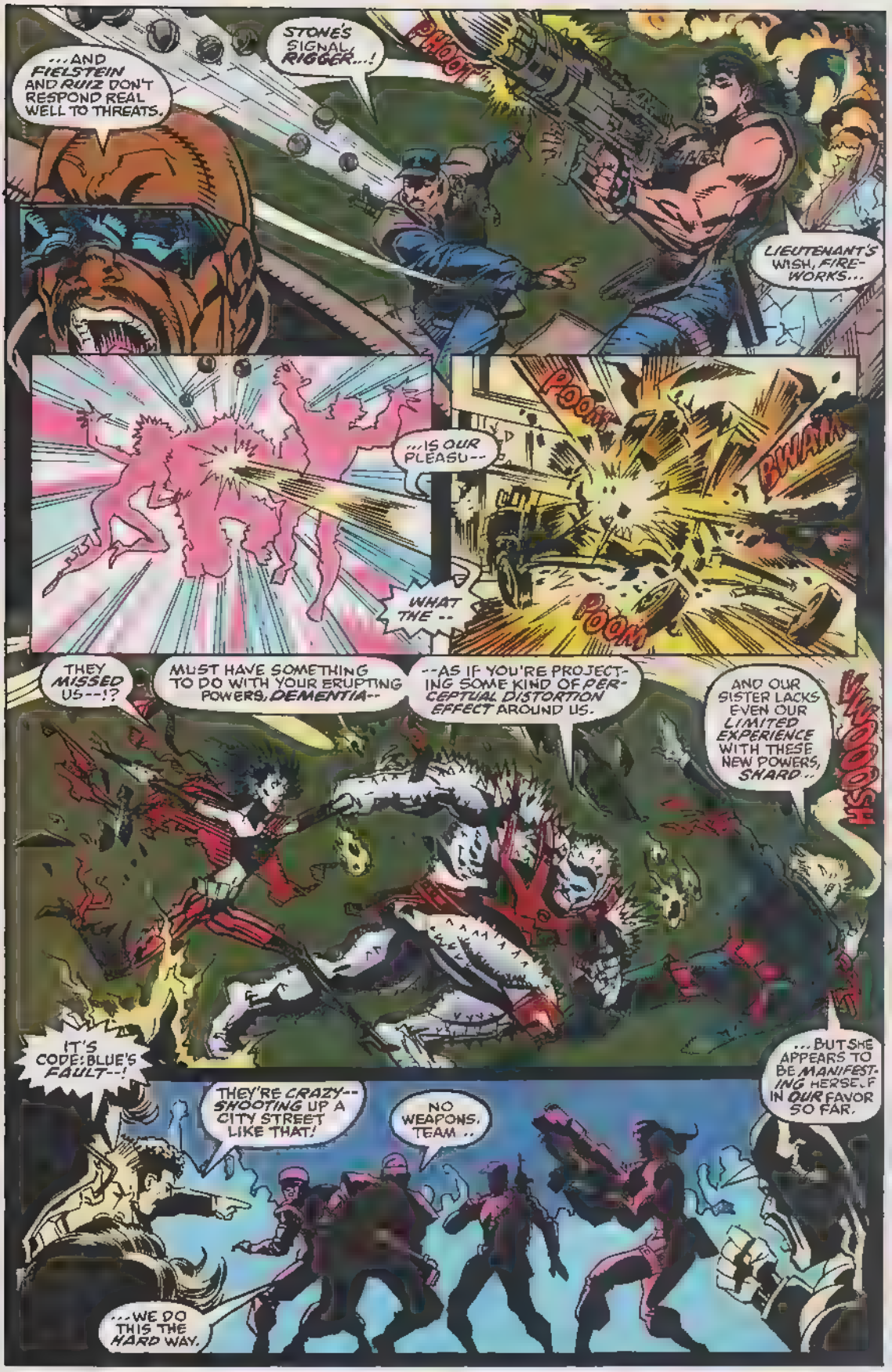
WHEN DID I BECOME MY OWN STRAIGHT MAN..?!
FIFTH AVENUE LOOKS LIKE AN URBAN BATTLE ZONE...
EITHER THE WAR ON GRIDLOCK IS GETTING WAY OUT OF HAND, OR--
Uhhrr
STOMACH CHURNING INSIDE-OUT...
HEAD FLIPPING UPSIDE-DOWN...
SPIDER-GRIP--
--DON'T FAIL ME NOW...

JUST SHUT MY EYES...
AND LET MY FINGERS DO THE WALKING.
DISTORTION EFFECT APPEARS TO GET WORSE AS I GET CLOSER TO THE GROUND, SO I KNOW I'M--
YAAAAA!
MOST POWERFUL SURGE OF NAUSEA YET...
...NEVER GOING TO GET MY BEARINGS IN TIME TO SHOOT A WEB-LINE--
--AND MY NEXT STOP'S THE I.N.D. SUBWAY LINE!

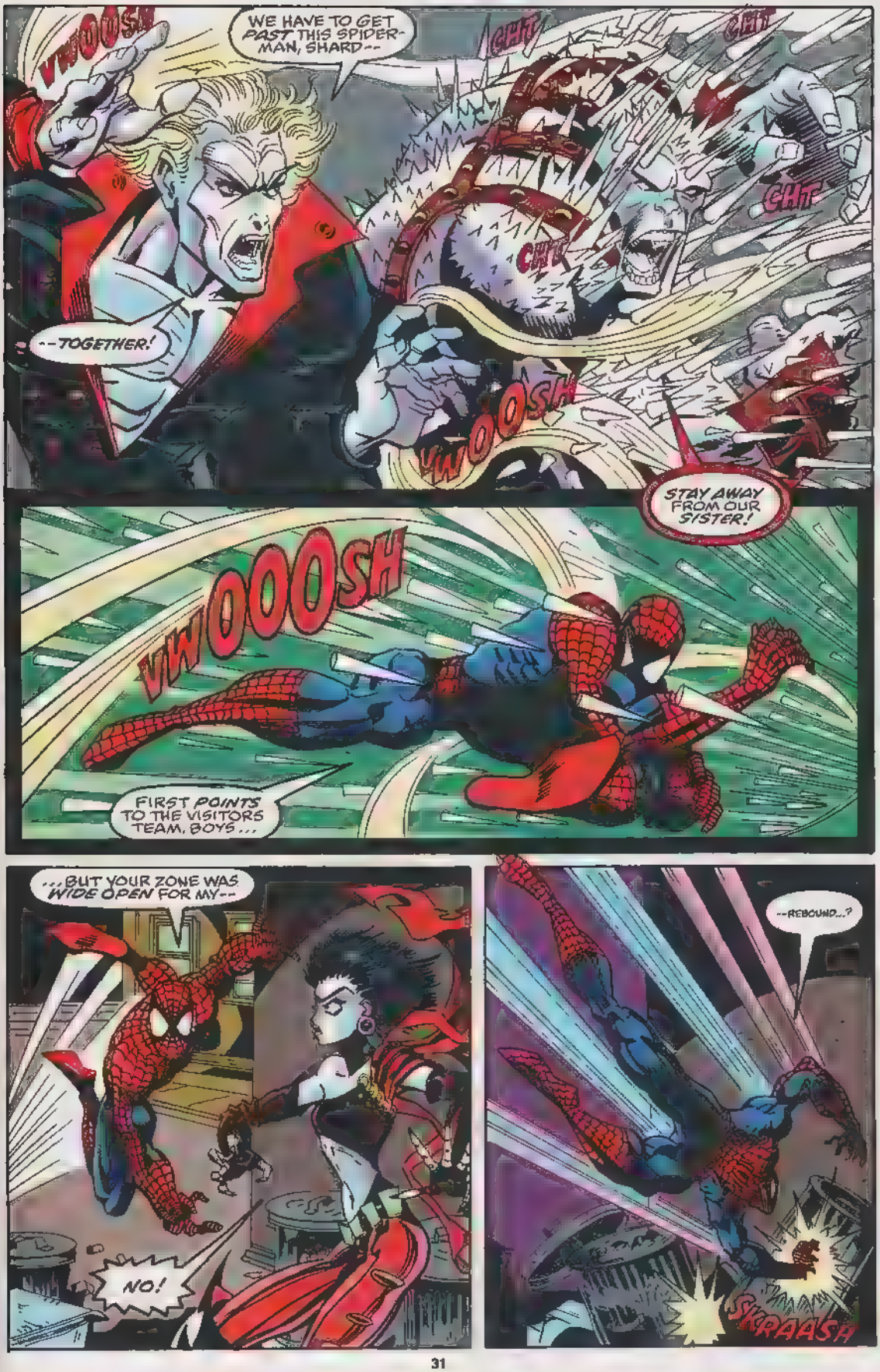
UNLESS I BORROW MY OLD PAL DAREDEVIL'S FAVORITE RIFF--
--PUTTING MY OWN PERSONAL SPIN ON IT, OF COURSE...
...SPIDER-STYLE.
I CAN ALMOST HEAR THE RISING ROAR OF--
--MY LEGION OF FANS!?

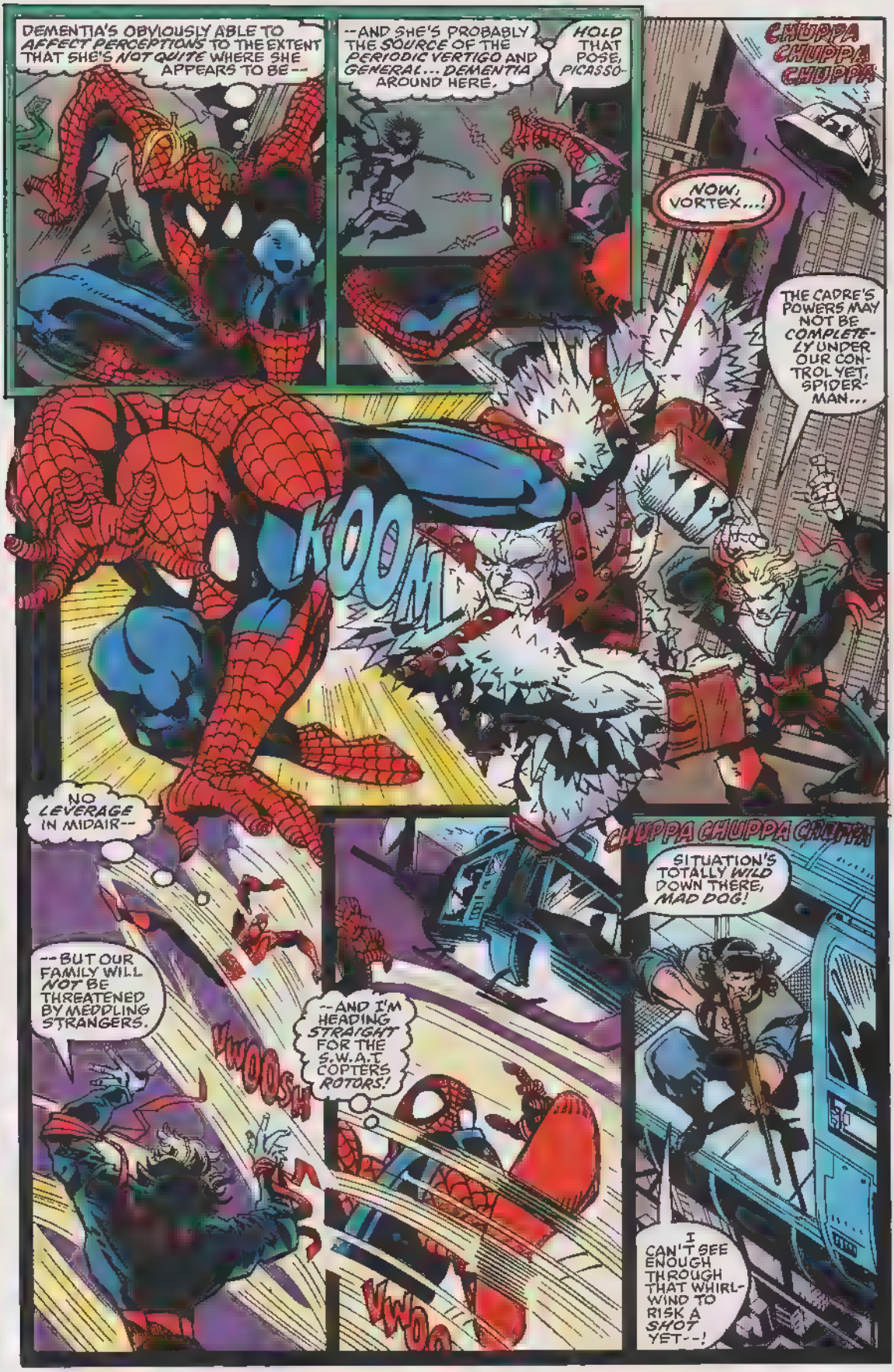
STILL TOO DISORIENTED TO AVOID THIS MOB SCENE AT FIRST...
THEY'RE ALL CRAZY--!
...BUT THIS LITTLE SPIDER HAS NEVER BEEN ONE TO FOLLOW MEEKLY ALONG WITH THE--
--WHOA--!
YIIEEE!
MOVE! MOVE!
DRAGON-RIDING CRUSADERS?!
YAAAA!
THWIP
I DIDN'T SEE THAT--
I COULDN'T HAVE SEEN THAT--
OUT OF THE WAY--!

-- AND I REALLY HOPE I'M NOT SEEING THIS
CHUPPA CHUPPA CHUPPA
STAY YOUR DISTANCE, STRANGERS...
...THE CADRE CANNOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF--
VWOOOSH
CHT
CHT
CHT
CHT
CHT
CHT
POLICE
CODE: BLUE IS GIVING THE ORDERS HERE NOW, FREAKS...

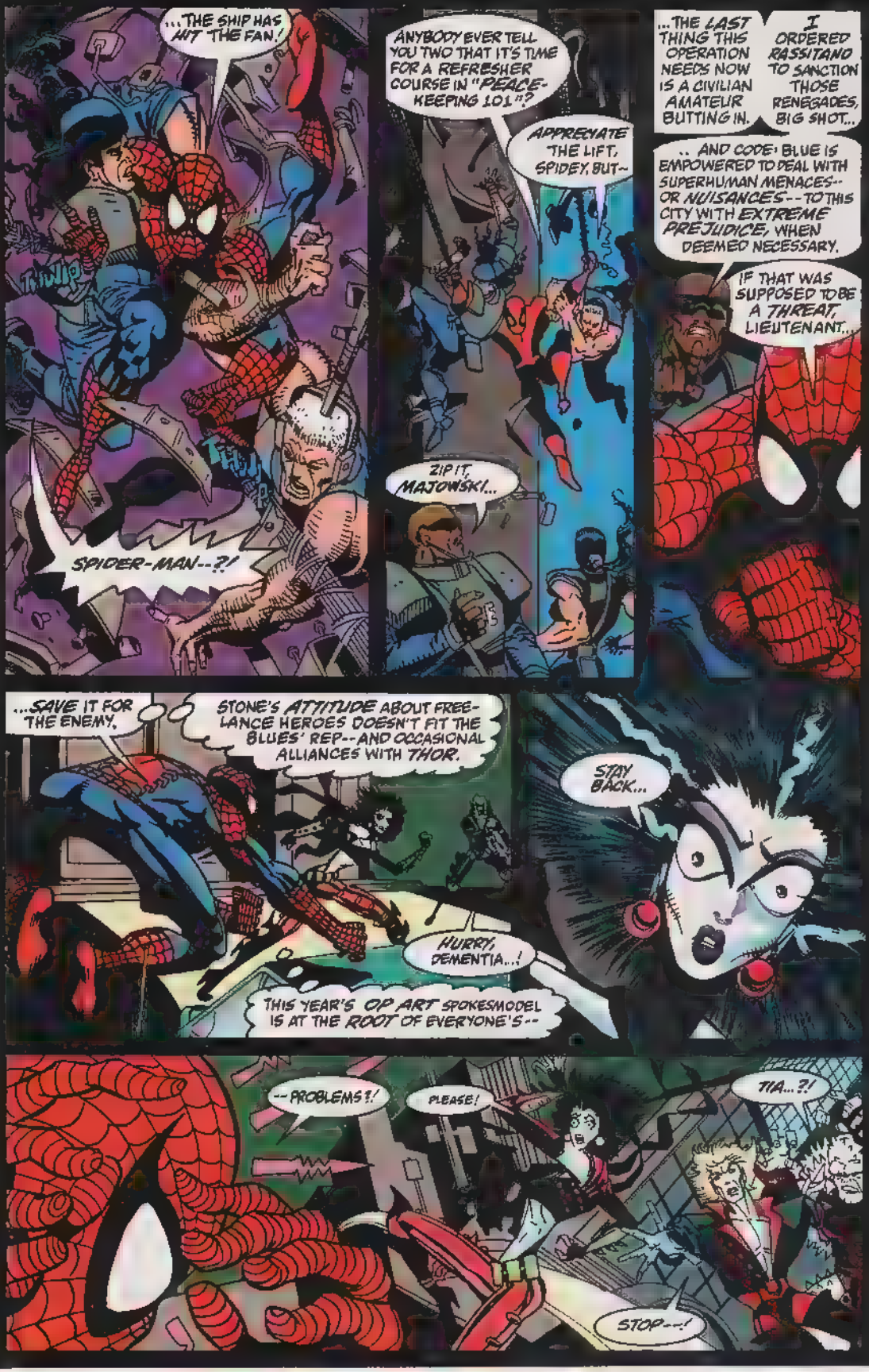

...AND FIELSTEIN AND RUIZ DON'T RESPOND REAL WELL TO THREATS.
STONE'S SIGNAL, RIGGER...!
PHOOT
LIEUTENANT'S WISH, FIRE-WORKS...
...IS OUR PLEASU--
POOM
BWAM
WHAT THE --
POOM
THEY MISSED US--!?
MUST HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH YOUR ERUPTING POWERS, DEMENTIA--
--AS IF YOU'RE PROJECTING SOME KIND OF PERCEPTUAL DISTORTION EFFECT AROUND US.
AND OUR SISTER LACKS EVEN OUR LIMITED EXPERIENCE WITH THESE NEW POWERS, SHARD..
WOOOSH
IT'S CODE:BLUE'S FAULT--!
THEY'RE CRAZY-- SHOOTING UP A CITY STREET LIKE THAT!
NO WEAPONS, TEAM..
...BUT SHE APPEARS TO BE MANIFESTING HERSELF IN OUR FAVOR SO FAR.
...WE DO THIS THE HARD WAY.

CROWD'S TOO ANGRY TO REALIZE THE BLUES LIMITED THEIR FIRST ASSAULT TO CONCUSSIVE ARTILLERY ONLY...
...BUT I SUSPECT EVERYBODY'S PARANOID OVER-REACTIONS ARE LINKED TO THOSE EARLIER WAVES OF ODD SENSATIONS--
--THAT INTENSIFIED AS I APPROACHED THIS WEIRD TRIO.
WHO...?!
KEEP GOING, DEMENTIA--!
COSTUME MUST BE TOO SUBTLE FOR YOU...
...BUT SPIDER-MAN'S NEVER BEEN THE TYPE TO TAKE SIDES WITHOUT INTRODUCING HIMSELF FACE-TO--
LEAVE US ALONE!
FACE!?

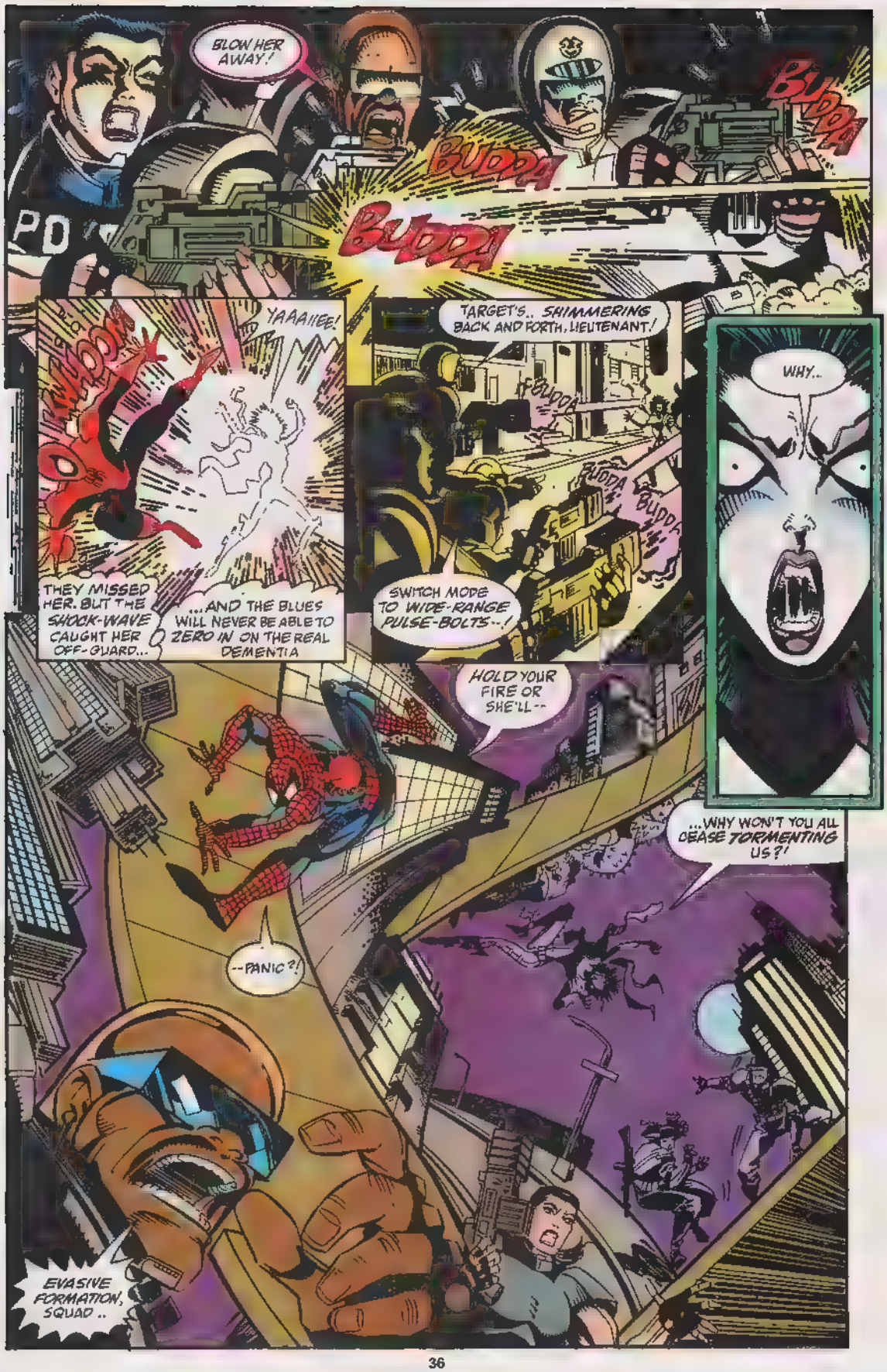

VWOOSH
WE HAVE TO GET PAST THIS SPIDER-MAN, SHARD--
CHT
CHT
CHT
CHT
--TOGETHER!
VWOOSH
STAY AWAY FROM OUR SISTER!
VWOOOSH
FIRST POINTS TO THE VISITORS TEAM, BOYS...
...BUT YOUR ZONE WAS WIDE OPEN FOR MY--
NO!
--REBOUND...?
SKRAASH

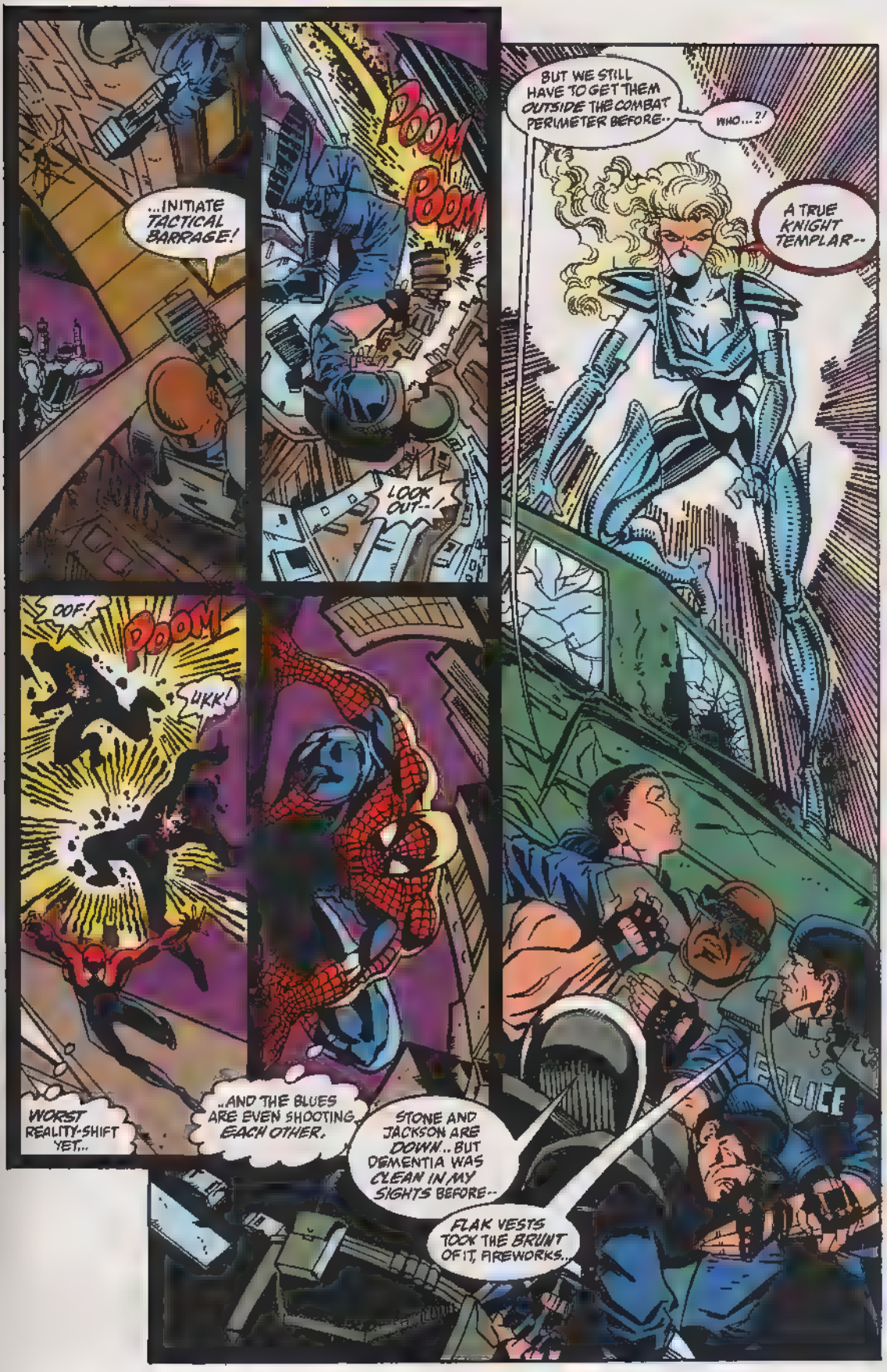

DEMENTIA'S OBVIOUSLY ABLE TO AFFECT PERCEPTIONS TO THE EXTENT THAT SHE'S NOT QUITE WHERE SHE APPEARS TO BE--
--AND SHE'S PROBABLY THE SOURCE OF THE PERIODIC VERTIGO AND GENERAL... DEMENTIA AROUND HERE.
HOLD THAT POSE, PICASSO-
CHUPPA CHUPPA CHUPPA
NOW, VORTEX...!
THE CADRE'S POWERS MAY NOT BE COMPLETELY UNDER OUR CONTROL YET, SPIDER-MAN...
KOOM
NO LEVERAGE IN MIDAIR--
--BUT OUR FAMILY WILL NOT BE THREATENED BY MEDDLING STRANGERS.
VWOOSH
--AND I'M HEADING STRAIGHT FOR THE S.W.A.T COPTERS ROTORS!
VWOO
CHUPPA CHUPPA CHUPPA
SITUATION'S TOTALLY WILD DOWN THERE, MAD DOG!
I CAN'T SEE ENOUGH THROUGH THAT WHIRLWIND TO RISK A SHOT YET--!

CHUPPACHU
SPIDER-GRIP GETS ME OUT OF THE FRYING PAN...
...AND INTO THE LINE OF FIRE.
OOSH
PPACHUPPA
JUST HOLD OUR POSITION, MOTHER...
POLICE
...STONE WANTS RESULTS.
KPOW KPOW KPOW
CROWD CONTROL'S IN PROGRESS, LIEUTENANT...AND BACK-UPS ALREADY ON THE WAY.
THEY'RE SHOOTING AGAIN--!
ENOOOUGH!
CHT
KPOW
KPOW
KPOW
NO, SHARD...!
FWOO
YOUR SPIKES WILL SLAUGHTER THE HELICOPTER CREW UNLESS I CAN INTERCEPT THEM WITH MY WINDS IN TI--
=AKK=
SKRAAK
UH OH...
THE COPTER'S COMING APART!
WOOOOSH

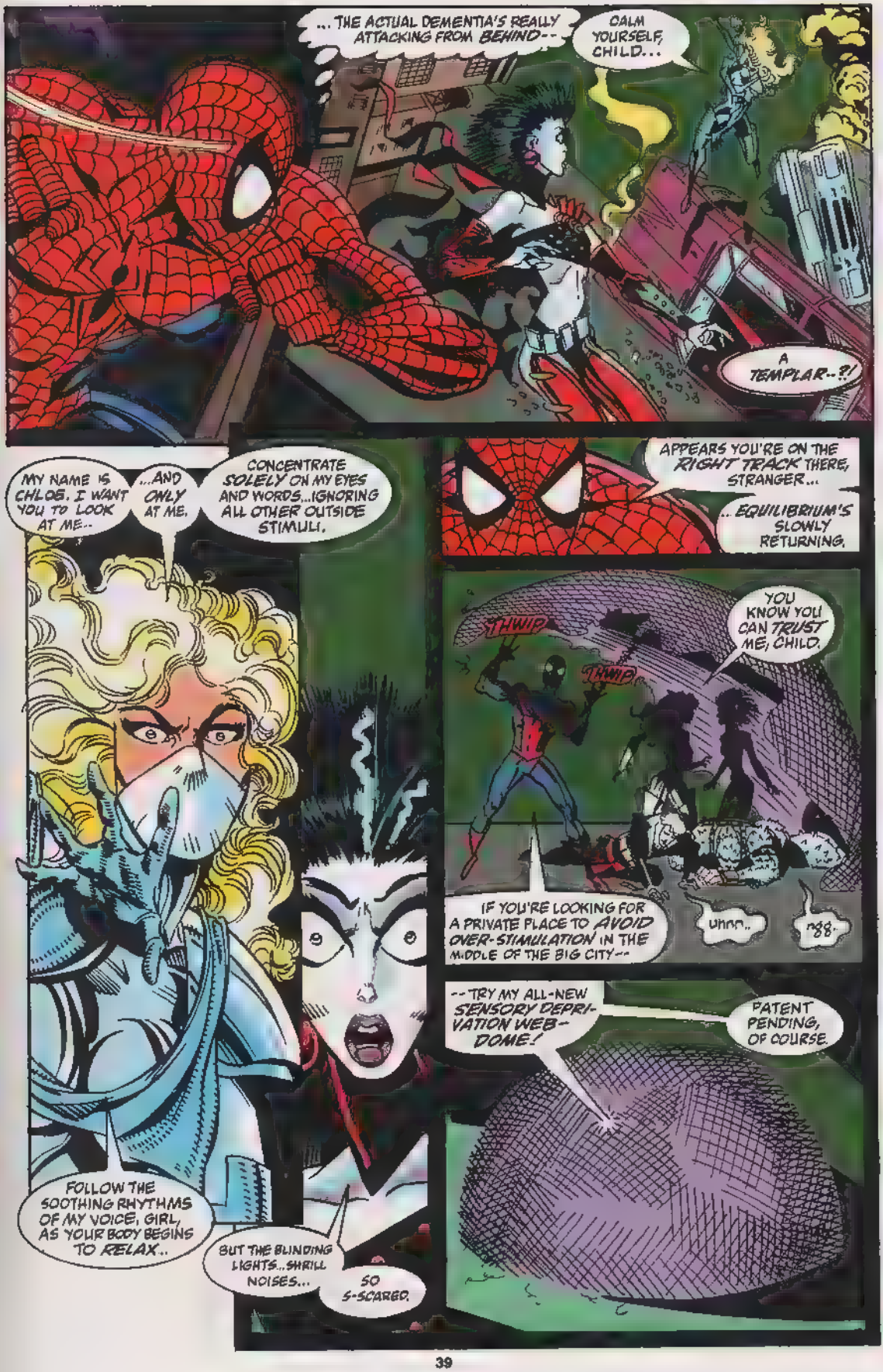

...THE SHIP HAS HIT THE FAN!
SPIDER-MAN--?!
ANYBODY EVER TELL YOU TWO THAT IT'S TIME FOR A REFRESHER COURSE IN "PEACE-KEEPING 101"?
APPRECIATE THE LIFT, SPIDEY, BUT~
ZIP IT, MAJOWSKI...
...THE LAST THING THIS OPERATION NEEDS NOW IS A CIVILIAN AMATEUR BUTTING IN.
I ORDERED RASSITANO TO SANCTION THOSE RENEGADES, BIG SHOT...
.. AND CODE: BLUE IS EMPOWERED TO DEAL WITH SUPERHUMAN MENACES--OR NUISANCES--TO THIS CITY WITH EXTREME PREJUDICE, WHEN DEEMED NECESSARY.
IF THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A THREAT, LIEUTENANT...
...SAVE IT FOR THE ENEMY.
STONE'S ATTITUDE ABOUT FREE-LANCE HEROES DOESN'T FIT THE BLUES' REP--AND OCCASIONAL ALLIANCES WITH THOR.
STAY BACK...
HURRY, DEMENTIA...!
THIS YEAR'S OP ART SPOKESMODEL IS AT THE ROOT OF EVERYONE'S--
--PROBLEMS?!
PLEASE!
TIA...?!
STOP--!

DEMENTIA'S SWEEPING UNREALITY-RIPPLES ARE OBVIOUSLY AS ILLUSORY AS HER BIZARRE APPEARANCE WHEN I FOCUS ON HER DIRECTLY..
...BUT SHARD AND VORTEX ARE FIERCELY LOYAL TO HER--AND ALL TOO SOLID.
WE WON'T ABANDON OUR SISTER, SPIDER-MAN..!
SHE'S DANGEROUS, GUYS--ERRATIC--
TWIP
--SO I'M PUTTING MY BEST FIST FORWARD!
=UHFF!=
SHARD MAY BE OUT FOR THE MOMENT, INTRUDER
...BUT UNPREDICTABILITY APPEARS TO RUN IN OUR FAMILY--
WHAT--?!
THWIP
TWIP
TWIP
TWO DOWN..
AND ONE TO--

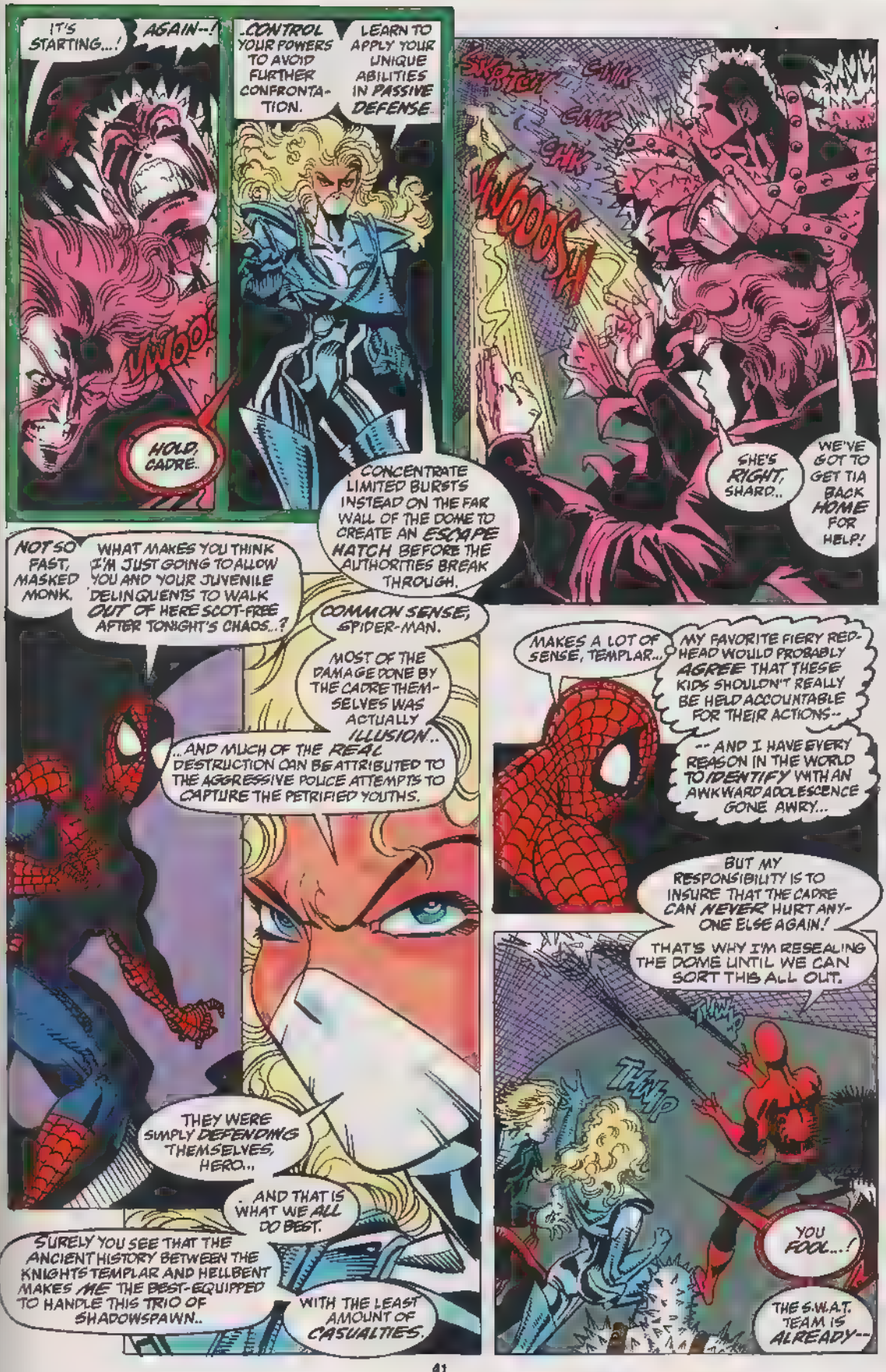

BLOW HER AWAY!
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
PD
YAAAIIEE!
KAWOOM
TARGET'S.. SHIMMERING BACK AND FORTH, LIEUTENANT!
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
WHY..
THEY MISSED HER. BUT THE SHOCK-WAVE CAUGHT HER OFF-GUARD...
...AND THE BLUES WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO ZERO IN ON THE REAL DEMENTIA
SWITCH MODE TO WIDE-RANGE PULSE-BOLTS--!
HOLD YOUR FIRE OR SHE'LL--
...WHY WON'T YOU ALL CEASE TORMENTING US?!
--PANIC?!
EVASIVE FORMATION, SQUAD..


...INITIATE TACTICAL BARRAGE!
POOM
POOM
LOOK OUT--!
BUT WE STILL HAVE TO GET THEM OUTSIDE THE COMBAT PERIMETER BEFORE..
WHO...?!
A TRUE KNIGHT TEMPLAR--
OOF!
POOM
UKK!
WORST REALITY-SHIFT YET...
..AND THE BLUES ARE EVEN SHOOTING EACH OTHER.
STONE AND JACKSON ARE DOWN.. BUT DEMENTIA WAS CLEAN IN MY SIGHTS BEFORE--
FLAK VESTS TOOK THE BRUNT OF IT, FIREWORKS..
POLICE

--.S BORN AND BRED TO NAVIGATE HELL-BENT MADNESS.
AND WHILE OUR MYSTERY GUEST GUIDES THE WOUNDED SAFELY THROUGH THE BATTLE-ZONE...
STICK WITH THE BLONDE CAVALRY FOR NOW, TEAM...!
GET AWAY--!
--THIS LUCKY CONTESTANT HAS BEEN CHOSEN FOR TODAY'S FINAL BONUS--
NOOOO!
--ROUND?
PHYSICAL C-C-C-CONTACT...
D-DOSE OF DEMENTIA...TOO INTENSE ..
--I HATE YOU!
NO MORE, SPIDER-MAN
CHARGING ME HEAD-ON!
BUT ACCORDING TO MY SPIDER-SENSE...
YOU HOUNDED THE CADRE THROUGH THE STREETS LIKE ANIMALS, HURT MY BROTHERS-- FORCED ME TO BECOME SOME KIND OF... WILD MONSTER--


... THE ACTUAL DEMENTIA'S REALLY ATTACKING FROM BEHIND--
CALM YOURSELF, CHILD...
A TEMPLAR..?!
APPEARS YOU'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK THERE, STRANGER...
...EQUILIBRIUM'S SLOWLY RETURNING.
MY NAME IS CHLOE. I WANT YOU TO LOOK AT ME--
...AND ONLY AT ME.
CONCENTRATE SOLELY ON MY EYES AND WORDS...IGNORING ALL OTHER OUTSIDE STIMULI.
THWIP
THWIP
YOU KNOW YOU CAN TRUST ME, CHILD.
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A PRIVATE PLACE TO AVOID OVER-STIMULATION IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BIG CITY--
uhnn..
rgg.
--TRY MY ALL-NEW SENSORY DEPRIVATION WEB-DOME!
PATENT PENDING, OF COURSE.
FOLLOW THE SOOTHING RHYTHMS OF MY VOICE, GIRL, AS YOUR BODY BEGINS TO RELAX..
BUT THE BLINDING LIGHTS..SHRILL NOISES...
SO S-SCARED.

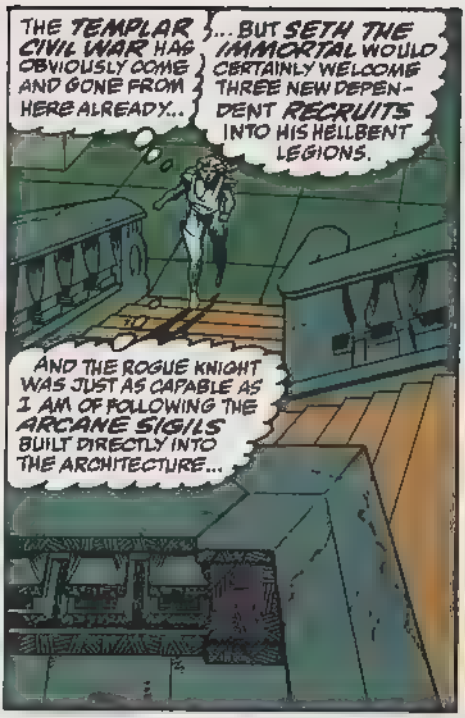
IT'S WORKING! DEMENTIA'S SHIFTING BEFORE OUR EYES--
-- INTO A MERE TEENAGER...?
THAT EXPLAINS THE TEMPER TANTRUM, AT LEAST.
IT WAS FAR MORE THAN THAT, SPIDER-MAN-- SHE IS ALL BUT CATATONIC FROM THE TERRIFYING EXPERIENCE CAUSED BY HER INHERENT PHEROMONES. THE ALBINO SHADOWSPAWN ARE PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TO THE HARSH REALITIES OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD.
"PHEROMONES"...?! AS IN AIRBORNE CHEMICALS THAT INFLUENCE BEHAVIORAL MECHANISMS--
TIA..?
SHE IS FINALLY SAFE, ARD..
-- SECRETED AUTOMATICALLY FROM A FRIGHTENED ORGANISM IN RESPONSE TO THREATS FROM THE ENVIRONMENT?
YOU ARE ALL UNDER MY PROTECTION NOW, CHILDREN.
YOU SEEM TO POSSESS AN ABOVE-AVERAGE GRASP OF CURRENT SCIENCE THEORY, SPIDER-MAN.
ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT'S THERE'S NO CONCLUSIVE PROOF THAT HUMANS PRODUCE ACTIVE PHEROMONES ANY LONGER
THESE THREE ARE HARDLY HUMAN BY YOUR SIMPLE STANDARDS...
I RECOGNIZED THEM IMMEDIATELY AS LOST HELLBENT-- THE ETERNAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR-- WHEN I SAW THE LIVE TELEVISION COVERAGE OF THIS DISASTER SCENE.
POOM
BUDDA BUDDA
THEY CLEARLY TRUST YOU TEMPLAR, BUT--
IT IS PURELY INSTINCTIVE.
...I CAN ONLY ASSUME THESE TEENS SOMEHOW STRAYED FROM THEIR HAVEN WITH OUR LOCAL SECT AND ARE RESPONDING TO MY FAMILIAR BATTLE-DRESS
THERE'S OBVIOUSLY A LOT MORE GOING ON HERE THAN ANYONE REALIZES YET.
BUT THE BIG BOYS IN BLUE ARMOR-WEAR ARE STILL DETERMINED TO CRASH THE PARTY.

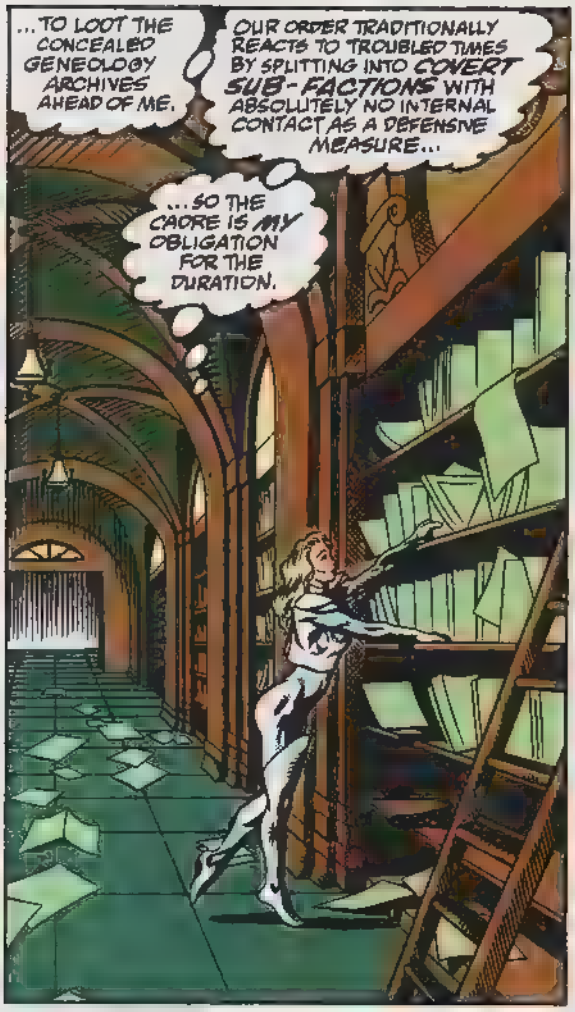

IT'S STARTING...!
AGAIN--!
UWOOO
HOLD, CADRE.
..CONTROL YOUR POWERS TO AVOID FURTHER CONFRONTATION.
LEARN TO APPLY YOUR UNIQUE ABILITIES IN PASSIVE DEFENSE.
SKRTCH
CHNK
CHNK
CHK
WOOOSH
SHE'S RIGHT, SHARD..
WE'VE GOT TO GET TIA BACK HOME FOR HELP!
CONCENTRATE LIMITED BURSTS INSTEAD ON THE FAR WALL OF THE DOME TO CREATE AN ESCAPE HATCH BEFORE THE AUTHORITIES BREAK THROUGH.
NOT SO FAST, MASKED MONK.
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'M JUST GOING TO ALLOW YOU AND YOUR JUVENILE DELINQUENTS TO WALK OUT OF HERE SCOT-FREE AFTER TONIGHT'S CHAOS..?
COMMON SENSE, SPIDER-MAN.
MOST OF THE DAMAGE DONE BY THE CADRE THEMSELVES WAS ACTUALLY ILLUSION..
..AND MUCH OF THE REAL DESTRUCTION CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE AGGRESSIVE POLICE ATTEMPTS TO CAPTURE THE PETRIFIED YOUTHS.
THEY WERE SIMPLY DEFENDING THEMSELVES, HERO...
AND THAT IS WHAT WE ALL DO BEST.
SURELY YOU SEE THAT THE ANCIENT HISTORY BETWEEN THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR AND HELLBENT MAKES ME THE BEST-EQUIPPED TO HANDLE THIS TRIO OF SHADOWSPAWN..
WITH THE LEAST AMOUNT OF CASUALTIES.
MAKES A LOT OF SENSE, TEMPLAR...
MY FAVORITE FIERY RED-HEAD WOULD PROBABLY AGREE THAT THESE KIDS SHOULDN'T REALLY BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS--
-- AND I HAVE EVERY REASON IN THE WORLD TO IDENTIFY WITH AN AWKWARD ADOLESCENCE GONE AWRY...
BUT MY RESPONSIBILITY IS TO INSURE THAT THE CADRE CAN NEVER HURT ANYONE ELSE AGAIN!
THAT'S WHY I'M RESEALING THE DOME UNTIL WE CAN SORT THIS ALL OUT.
THWIP
THWIP
YOU FOOL...!
THE S.W.A.T. TEAM IS ALREADY--

MOVE IN!
YEAAIII!
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
CHT CHT CHT
NO-- WAIT...!
VWOOP
POOM
WASH
SKRAAK
STAY DOWN!
THUMP
THUMP
NO...
...THE CADRE GOT AWAY!
HEY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I STILL NEED SOME ANSWERS, SPIDER-MAN--
THWIP THWIP
BUT THIS RED, WEBBED AND BLUE PATRIOT IS ANXIOUS TO GET HOME FOR SOME HELP WITH THE QUESTIONS.
I DID MY CIVIC DUTY, LIEUTENANT, BUT YOU GAVE THEM--
--AND ME--
--A BIG OUT.
DON'T WE ALL STONE...?
AND DOUBTS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE HELLBENT TEENS WILL PLAGUE SPIDER-MAN UNTIL -- AND IF -- THEY MEET AGAIN...
THE END

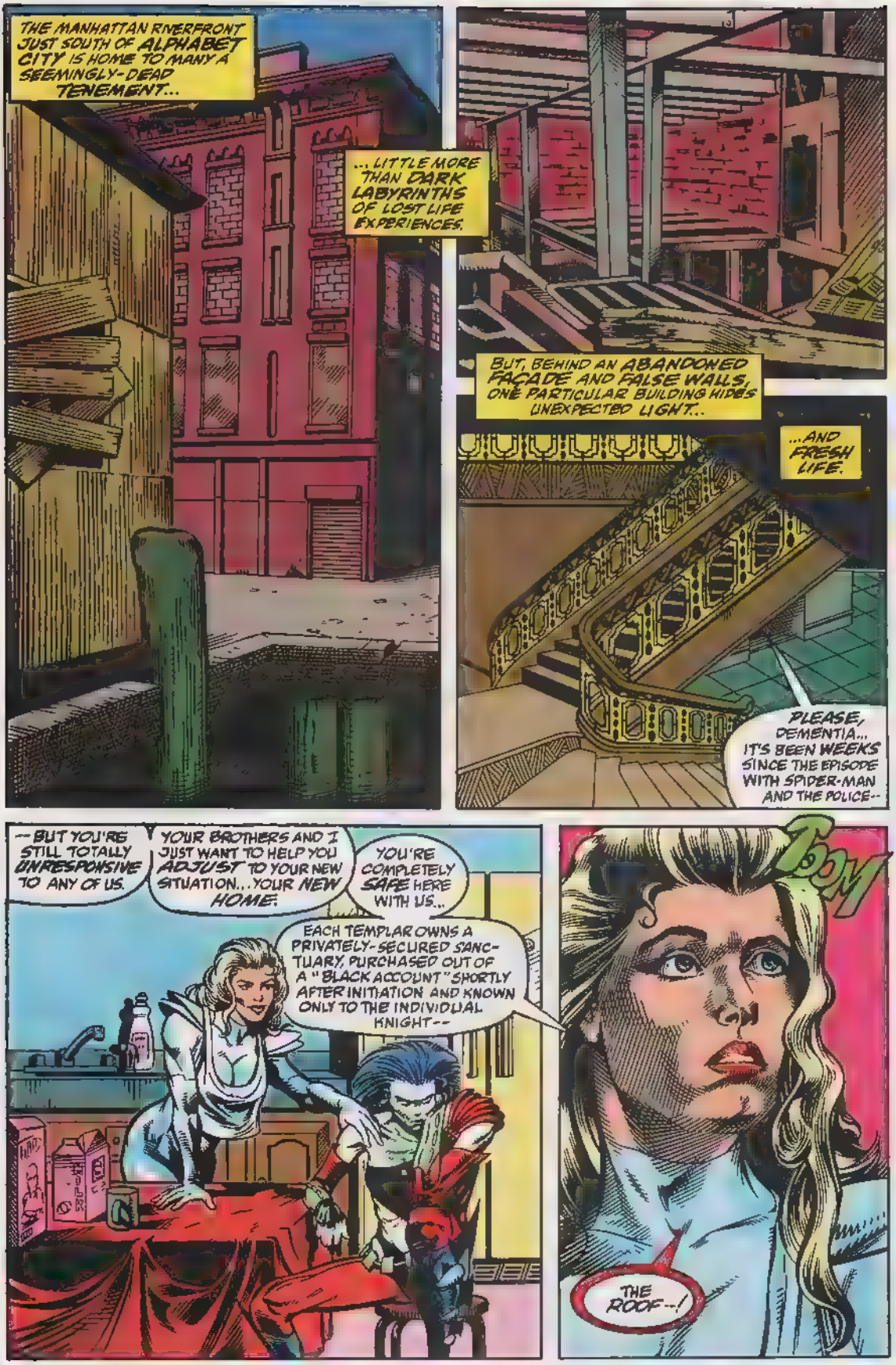
EPILOGUE
THE VERY NEXT NIGHT, THE CADRE IS HIT HARD BY THE TRAGIC TRUTH BURIED DEEP BENEATH THEIR UPSTATE MONASTERY.
WE CANNOT LINGER TOO LONG, CHILDREN --
-- THIS SHELTER HAS BEEN BRUTALLY COMPROMISED...
...TO THE LAST MAN AND WOMAN.
NOT NOW, CHLOE...
GREGORI WAS THE CLOSEST PERSON WE KNEW TO A FATHER.
STAN LEE PRESENTS THE CADRE IN:
THINGS TO COME
JERRY KAVANAGH WRITER
VINCE EVANS PENCILER
BILL ANDERSON INKER
MARK BERNARDO COLORIST
RICK PARKER LETTERER
ERIC FEIN EDITOR
DANNY FINGEROTH GROUP EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

AND WE'D LIKE A MOMENT ALONE WITH WHAT'S LEFT OF OUR FAMILY.
THEN KEEP A CLOSE WATCH ON YOUR TRAUMATIZED SISTER UNTIL I RETURN, VORTEX...
...THE DANGER IS FAR FROM OVER.


THE TEMPLAR CIVIL WAR HAS OBVIOUSLY COME AND GONE FROM HERE ALREADY...
...BUT SETH THE IMMORTAL WOULD CERTAINLY WELCOME THREE NEW DEPENDENT RECRUITS INTO HIS HELLBENT LEGIONS.
AND THE ROGUE KNIGHT WAS JUST AS CAPABLE AS I AM OF FOLLOWING THE ARCANE SIGILS BUILT DIRECTLY INTO THE ARCHITECTURE...


...TO LOOT THE CONCEALED GENEOLOGY ARCHIVES AHEAD OF ME.
OUR ORDER TRADITIONALLY REACTS TO TROUBLED TIMES BY SPLITTING INTO COVERT SUB-FACTIONS WITH ABSOLUTELY NO INTERNAL CONTACT AS A DEFENSIVE MEASURE...
...SO THE CADRE IS MY OBLIGATION FOR THE DURATION.

NOW THIS IS STRANGE--EVEN THE BACK-UP FILES ON SHARD, VORTEX, AND DEMENTIA ARE INCOMPLETE.
BUT THERE'S NO REAL REASON SETH WOULD NEED TWO COPIES OF THE SAME INFORMATION...

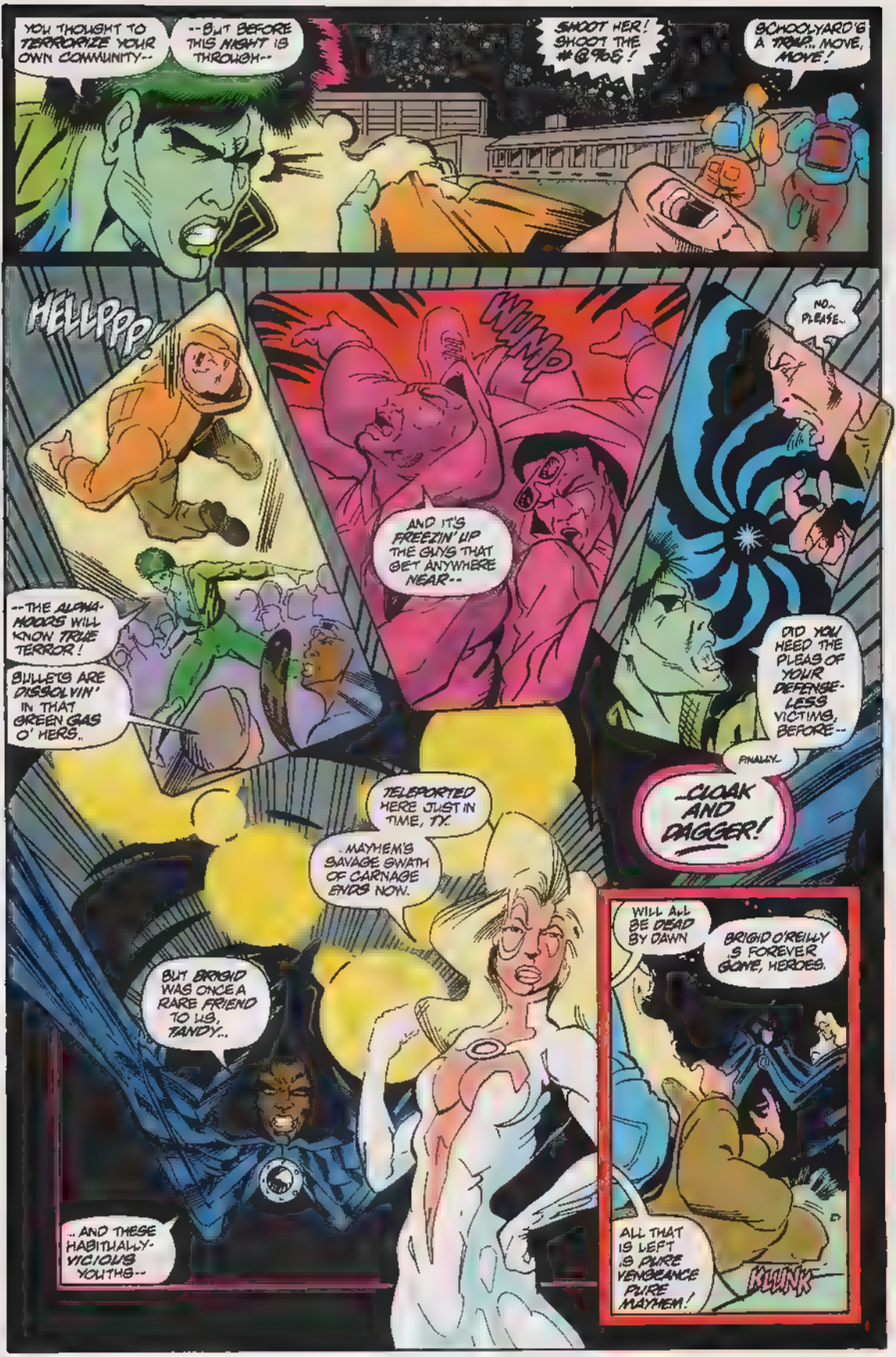

THE MANHATTAN RIVERFRONT JUST SOUTH OF ALPHABET CITY IS HOME TO MANY A SEEMINGLY-DEAD TENEMENT...
...LITTLE MORE THAN DARK LABYRINTHS OF LOST LIFE EXPERIENCES.
BUT, BEHIND AN ABANDONED FACADE AND FALSE WALLS, ONE PARTICULAR BUILDING HIDES UNEXPECTED LIGHT..
...AND FRESH LIFE.
PLEASE, DEMENTIA... IT'S BEEN WEEKS SINCE THE EPISODE WITH SPIDER-MAN AND THE POLICE--
--BUT YOU'RE STILL TOTALLY UNRESPONSIVE TO ANY OF US.
YOUR BROTHERS AND I JUST WANT TO HELP YOU ADJUST TO YOUR NEW SITUATION...YOUR NEW HOME.
YOU'RE COMPLETELY SAFE HERE WITH US..
EACH TEMPLAR OWNS A PRIVATELY-SECURED SANCTUARY, PURCHASED OUT OF A "BLACK ACCOUNT" SHORTLY AFTER INITIATION AND KNOWN ONLY TO THE INDIVIDUAL KNIGHT--
BOOM
THE ROOF--!

GIVE IT UP, VORTEX... I'VE FINALLY LEARNED HOW TO LAUNCH INDIVIDUAL SPIKES ON COMMAND--
BUT YOU STILL CAN'T CONTROL THEIR DIRECTION, SHARD...
CHK
CHK
WOOSH
WHAT--?!
... AND I'VE GAINED ENOUGH MASTERY OF MY WIND-BURSTS TO FLY WELL OVER YOUR AIMLESS THREA--
UHFF
THAT MUCH IS APPARENT, BOY. .
. NOW WE JUST HAVE TO WORK ON YOUR LANDINGS.
WUMP
I REALLY SHOULD BE ANNOYED THAT YOU TWO WEREN'T UP HERE REFINING THE MEDITATION TECHNIQUES I TAUGHT YOU TO MASTER YOUR HELLBENT TALENTS...
...YET I CAN'T HELP BUT BE PROUD OF YOUR PHYSICAL PROGRESS.
YOU CAN ONLY SHELTER US FOR SO LONG, CHLOE...
AND SOON ENOUGH YOU WILL ALL BE FREE TO WALK THE STREETS OF THE CITY WITH NO FEAR...

...IF I CAN ACTIVATE THE "BLOODLINE AGENDA" BEFORE SETH THE IMMORTAL.*
CHLOE STILL HAS NO IDEA...
BUT TIA'S SANITY RETURNS MORE WITH EACH PASSING DAY--
*CLIMAXING IN MOON KNIGHT #50.--Eric
--AND HER NEWLY-DEVELOPED ABILITY TO FOCUS SPECIFIC PERCEPTUAL DISTORTIONS ON A SINGLE TARGET PROTECTED THE SECRET OF OUR FINAL HELLBENT MANIFESTATIONS.
KCH
KCH
KCH
KCH
...AS LONG AS THE TEMPLAR REFUSES TO EXPLAIN OUR FATHER'S "HELLBENT" DESIG-NATION.
YOUR RETRACTABLE SPIKES AND MY DEFENSIVE WINDSHIELD ARE FAMILY BUSINESS ONLY, ARD..
VNSH
THE KNIGHTS TRIED TO KEEP OUR OWN PAST FROM US ONCE BEFORE...
...BUT THE LIMITED FILES I RE-TRIEVED FROM THE MONASTERY'S ARCHIVES CHAMBER BEFORE CHLOE GOT THERE GIVES US A PLACE TO START.
WE HAVE HER NAME AND A 20-YEAR-OLD ADDRESS ONLY, YOR.
...AND THIS IS AN ENORMOUS CITY.
WHEN DEMENTIA'S RECOVERY IS COMPLETE, THE CADRE WILL BE WHOLE AGAIN...
...AND--ONE WAY OR ANOTHER--WE WILL EVENTUALLY FIND OUR MOTHER!
The End...?

IN THE DEEPEST SHADOWS OF LOWER MANHATTAN...
...IT'S BECOME DANGEROUSLY DIFFICULT TO DISTINGUISH THE HEROES FROM THE VILLAINS.
YOU PUNKS CAN'T RUN FAST OR FAR ENOUGH TO ESCAPE--
:NGH!:
SHRAK
SHRAK
--MAYHEM'S GRASP!
STAN LEE PRESENTS:
CLOAK DAGGER IN MAYHEM IN THE STREETS

TERRY KAVANAGH	FRED HAYNES	TIM TUOHY	CHRIS ELIOPOULOS	DANA MORESHEAD	ERIC FEIN	DANNY FINGEROTH	TOM DeFALCO
WRITER	PENCILER	INKER	LETTERER	COLORIST	EDITOR	GROUP EDITOR	EDITOR IN CHIEF

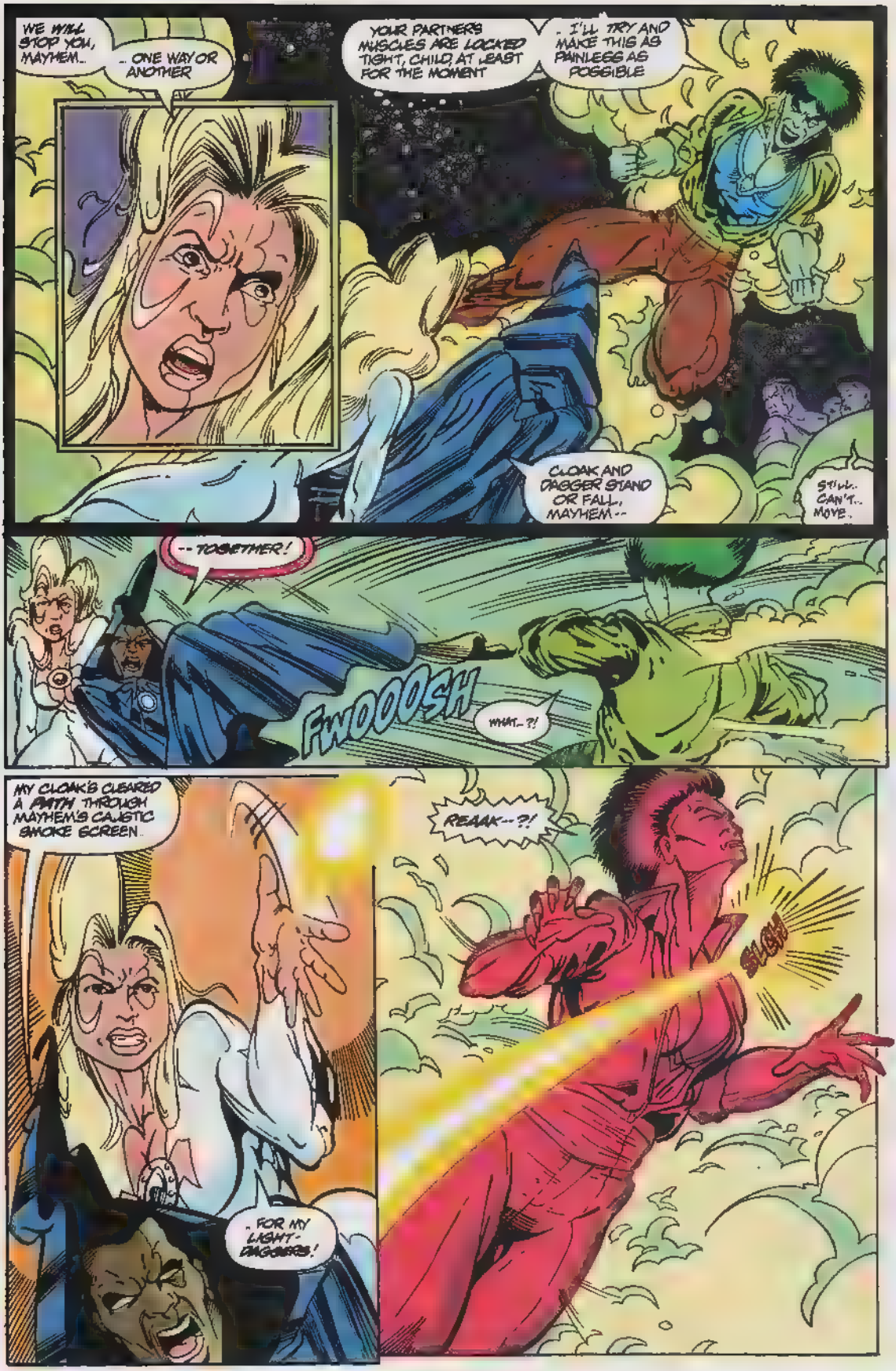

YOU THOUGHT TO TERRORIZE YOUR OWN COMMUNITY--
--BUT BEFORE THIS NIGHT IS THROUGH--
SHOOT HER! SHOOT THE #@%&$!
SCHOOLYARD'S A TRAP.. MOVE, MOVE!
HELLPPP!
WUMP
NO.. PLEASE..
AND IT'S FREEZIN' UP THE GUYS THAT GET ANYWHERE NEAR--
--THE ALPHA-MOORS WILL KNOW TRUE TERROR!
BULLETS ARE DISSOLVIN' IN THAT GREEN GAS O' HERS..
DID YOU HEED THE PLEAS OF YOUR DEFENSE-LESS VICTIMS, BEFORE--
FINALLY..
..CLOAK AND DAGGER!
TELEPORTED HERE JUST IN TIME, TY.
..MAYHEM'S SAVAGE SWATH OF CARNAGE ENDS NOW.
BUT BRIGID WAS ONCE A RARE FRIEND TO US, TANDY..
..AND THESE HABITUALLY-VICIOUS YOUTHS--
WILL ALL BE DEAD BY DAWN
BRIGID O'REILLY IS FOREVER GONE, HEROES.
ALL THAT IS LEFT IS PURE VENGEANCE PURE MAYHEM!
KLUNK

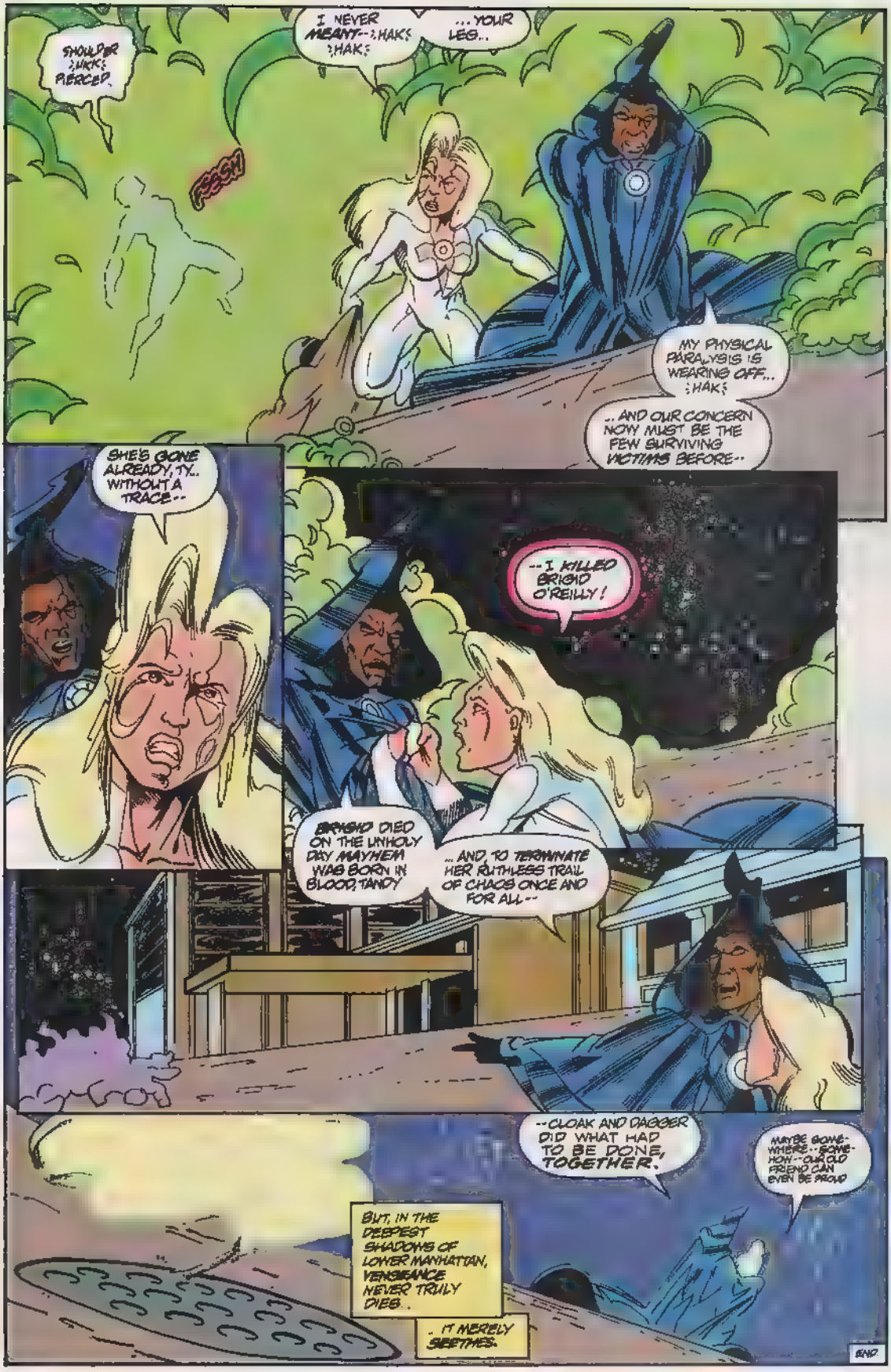
SHE'S C-COMIN' FOR US--!
THEY'LL NEVER MAKE IT OVER THE--
--FENCE..
ESCAPING JUSTICE IS IMPOSSIBLE..
..FOR THE GUILTY AMONGST US
CLOAK'S CAPE..
DRAGGIN' US INTO IT!
CLOAK MAY SYMPATHIZE WITH YOUR GOALS, MAYHEM--
DOWN, BOYS..!
SHE'S FLYING-- AARG!
SLINKS
--BUT DAGGER QUESTIONS YOUR METHODS..
..VEHEMENTLY!

EVEN YOUR LIGHT-KNIVES COULD NEVER PENETRATE MY CORROSIVE CLOUD CAMOUFLAGE, DAGGER--
--AND MY VENOM ALREADY RAVAGES THROUGH ANOTHER TWO FALLEN ANIMALS...
WHILE YOUR BELOVED PARTNER RETURNS THE LAST CROP OF HELPLESS URBAN PREDATORS
MY CLOAK MERELY DISARMED THESE CHILDREN, MAYHEM--
DON'T DON'T DON'T DON'T
CAN'T CAN'T CAN'T CAN'T CAN'T
WON'T WON'T WON'T WON'T
--IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE
EACH ALONE IN THE VAST DARKNESS OF MY EBON VOID, MANY OF THOSE ALPHA-HOODS TRULY FACED THEMSELVES FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THEIR TRAGIC LIVES
.. AND MOST WERE FOUND WANTING.
LEAVING MAYHEM TO REAP THE HARVEST!
LOOK AT HER EYES, MAN..!
SHE'S CRAZY--!

STAY DOWN!
SHWISH
THE HECK--?!
BLOND BURNED RIGHT THROUGH--
--WE'RE OUTTA HERE!
FOOLISH LITTLE GIRL..
..MY PREY IS PLENTIFUL HERE.
SHRAAK
NO--AAGH!
DAGGER..?!
PARALYZED.
LIGHT-SHIELDS. BARELY SLOWED. POISONOUS CLAWS..
WE WERE FORGED IN THE SAME FIRES, "HEROES."
BUT MAYHEM'S PURE WAR ON EVIL WILL NO LONGER BE CONSTRAINED BY ANY PERSONAL TIES TO O'REILLY'S LOST HUMANITY
... AND I CAME TO THE VERY SHADOW OF YOUR HOLYGHOST CHURCH TO SEVER THOSE TIES!

YOU WERE A CONSCIENTIOUS POLICE DETECTIVE, BRIGID--
--NEVER A COLD-BLOODED MURDERER
UNTIL THE FEW PEOPLE I TRULY TRUSTED--MY CROOKED FELLOW COPS--BETRAYED ME TO THE CITY'S UNDERWORLD..
SHRAAK
SHRAAK
.. AND EXPOSED ME TO A FATAL DOSE OF THEIR OH-SO-UNIQUE EXPERIMENTAL NERVE GAS
BUT, TO EVERYONE'S HORROR, THE UNFORESEEN INFLUENCE OF CLOAK AND DAGGER'S DRUG-TAINTED MUTANT ENERGIES GAVE BIRTH TO MAYHEM INSTEAD--
-- AND NOW MY POWERS WILL BE THE DEATH OF YOU BOTH!
LIKE TRYING TO HOLD BACK.. A BULLDOZER..
FEELING'S ALREADY RETURNING TO EVERYTHING BUT MY RIGHT ARM, TY--
-- OUR PIVOTAL ROLE IN MAYHEM'S GENESIS SEEMS TO HAVE GRANTED US ALL SOME SORT OF MUTUAL SEMI-IMMUNITY TO EACH OTHER.
DESPITE HER TAUNTS, TANDY, I BELIEVE THAT BRIGID SOUGHT US OUT TO HELP END HER INCREASINGLY-HYSTERICAL SPREE OF VIGILANTE TERROR
... TO BRING OUR DESTINIES FULL-CIRCLE--
YEAARGH! SLASHED MY LEG!
SHRAAK
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR PREACHING. IT ENDS NOW!
WUMP

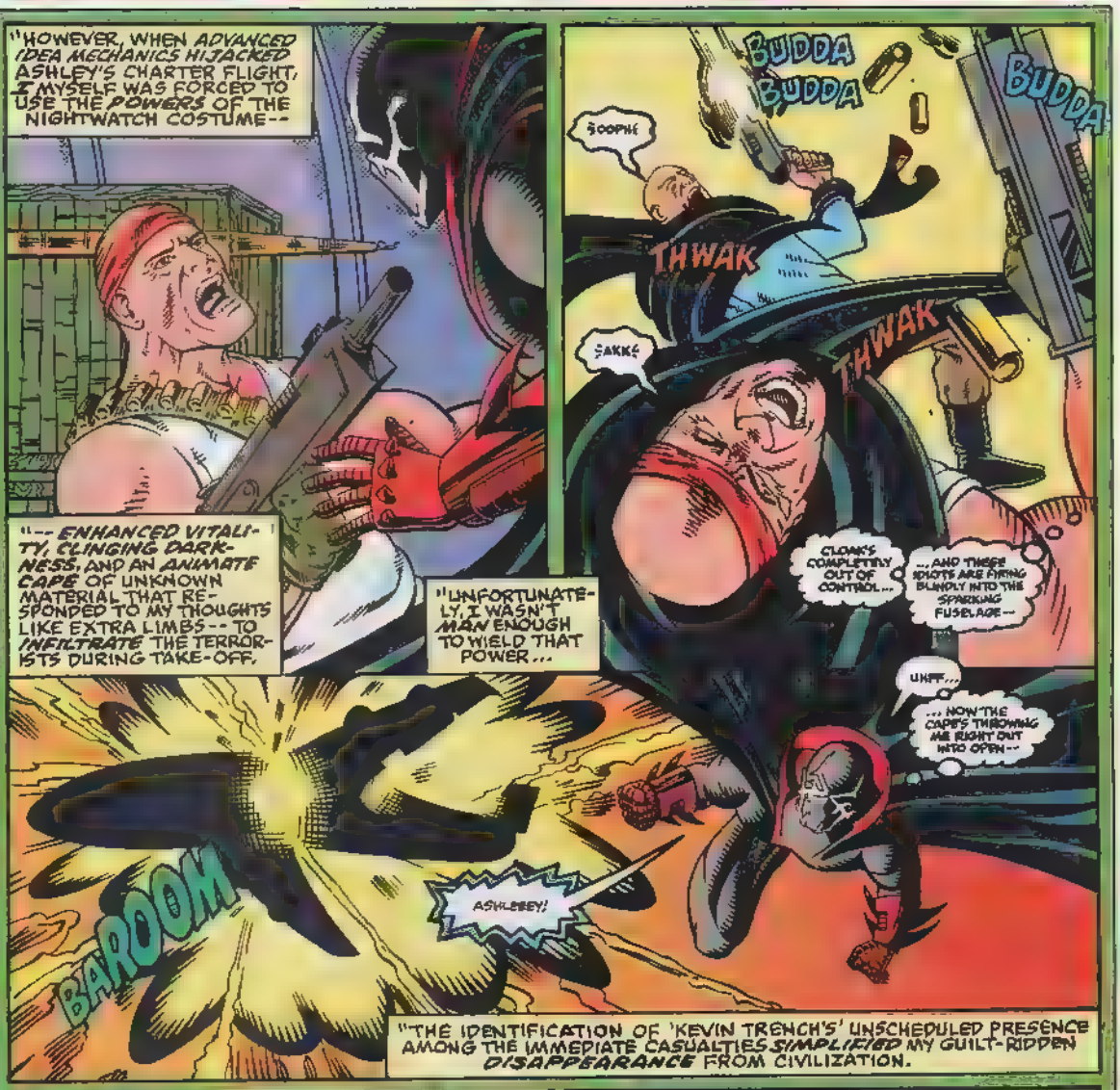

WE WILL STOP YOU, MAYHEM..
- ONE WAY OR ANOTHER
YOUR PARTNER'S MUSCLES ARE LOCKED TIGHT, CHILD, AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT
- I'LL TRY AND MAKE THIS AS PAINLESS AS POSSIBLE
CLOAK AND DAGGER STAND OR FALL, MAYHEM--
STILL.. CAN'T.. MOVE..
-- TOGETHER!
FWOOOSH
WHAT..?!
MY CLOAK'S CLEARED A PATH THROUGH MAYHEM'S CAUSTIC SMOKE SCREEN..
- FOR MY LIGHT-DAGGERS!
REAAK--?!
SLASH!


SHOULDER ;HICK; PIERCED.
FSSSH
I NEVER MEANT--;HAK; ;HAK;
...YOUR LEG...
MY PHYSICAL PARALYSIS IS WEARING OFF.. ;HAK;
..AND OUR CONCERN NOW MUST BE THE FEW SURVIVING VICTIMS BEFORE--
SHE'S GONE ALREADY, TY.. WITHOUT A TRACE--
--I KILLED BRIGID O'REILLY!
BRIGID DIED ON THE UNHOLY DAY MAYHEM WAS BORN IN BLOOD, TANDY
..AND, TO TERMINATE HER RUTHLESS TRAIL OF CHAOS ONCE AND FOR ALL--
--CLOAK AND DAGGER DID WHAT HAD TO BE DONE, TOGETHER.
MAYBE SOMEWHERE--SOMEHOW--OUR OLD FRIEND CAN EVEN BE PROUD
BUT, IN THE DEEPEST SHADOWS OF LOWER MANHATTAN, VENGEANCE NEVER TRULY DIES..
..IT MERELY SLEEPS.
END

AFTER NEARLY A DECADE OF SOLITARY SELF-EXILE IN A LUSH TROPICAL PARADISE HALFWAY AROUND THE WORLD--
--DOCTOR KEVIN TRENCH HAS ONLY RECENTLY RETURNED TO THE CROWDED CONCRETE CITY OF HIS BIRTH...
...AND DEATH.
...THE ENIGMATIC NIGHTWATCH HAS NOW COME FACE TO FACE WITH HIS OWN DARK FUTURE.
DESTINY CONTRIVED TO LURE ME BACK TO THE SHADOWS OF NEW YORK...
BUT IN HIS DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE HIS TAINTED PAST...
...JUST IN TIME FOR FATE'S FINAL, FATAL TWIST!
Stan Lee PRESENTS:
NIGHTWATCH IN
"OPENING GAMBIT"

WRITER, TERRY KAVANAGH / PENCILER, MARK POWERS / INKER, HECTOR COLLAZO
COLORIST, ROB TOKAR / LETTERER, JOE ROSEN / EDITOR, ERIC FEIN / GROUP EDITOR, DANNY FINGEROTH
EDITOR IN CHIEF: TOM DEFALCO

THIS RECENT ARTICLE SIGNALS THE BEGINNING...
DAILY BUGLE, June 4, 1993
Major Breakthrough in E.S.U. Adrenaline Experiments
A major breakthrough in science was announced today, whose impact is yet to be determined. The findings, conducted at Empire State University, represent the culmination of almost ten years of laboratory research.
A spokesperson for the research team said that the advancements in artificial adrenaline enhancement came at just the right time. "I believe they were about to close down the program," the new head of the science department told the press. "All of our money comes from privately funded grants," she continued.
"...OF THE TRAGEDY THAT ENDED ALMOST TEN YEARS AGO ON A DESOLATE RUNWAY AT KENNEDY AIRPORT.
--INVISIBLE FISTS--!?
"AS THE YOUNGEST HEAD OF THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT IN E.S.U.'S HISTORY, I WAS AT THE HEIGHT OF MY PROFESSIONAL CAREER...
"...AND I'D RECENTLY DISCOVERED THAT I SHARED EVEN MORE THAN JUST CHEMISTRY--IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD--WITH AN ALREADY-CELEBRATED EX-STUDENT.
"NONETHELESS, I HAD JUST PUT ASHLEY CROUX ON A PLANE TO PARIS WITH THE LATEST CLASS OF SCIENTIFIC WUNDER KINDS SO SHE COULD CONTINUE HER GROUND-BREAKING HORMONAL RESEARCH WITH MORELLE PHARMACEUTICALS...
"...WHEN THE WORLD STARTED HITTING ME FROM ALL SIDES AT ONCE."
ANOTHER "HOLE" SHIMMERING OPEN IN MID-AIR...
:UHG:
WOK
WOK
...BUT MY GLASSES ARE ALREADY BROKEN AND--
:UFF:
NO FEAR, KEVIN TRENCH...
..YOU SHALL NOT DIE HERE--
--YET.
NIGHTWATCH LENSES CAN EASILY READ THE HEAT SIGNATURES OF YOUR ASSAILANTS' COSTUMES.
...AND MY CLOAK WILL SEND THIS CAMOUFLAGED CADRE BACK WHERE WE CAME FROM.
TELE-PORTS ARE SAFELY CLOSED AGAIN, TRENCH..
DEAD!?
BUT THAT BIRTHMARK ON HIS NECK...
...AND ALL THAT'S REALLY LEFT TO SAY IS--
..."TRUST YOURSELF"
...THAT'S MY FACE!
"FURTHER EXAMINATION CONFIRMED THAT THE DISFIGURED BODY WAS SLIGHTLY OLDER, BUT UNQUESTIONABLY MINE--AND ALSO REVEALED THAT THE NIGHT-VISION LENSES OF THE MASK WERE GROUND TO MY EXACT PRESCRIPTION--
"--AND THE TATTERED POST-DATED NEWSPAPER CLIPPING CLUTCHED IN 'MY' CORPSE'S HAND ONLY ADDED TO THE MYSTERY."

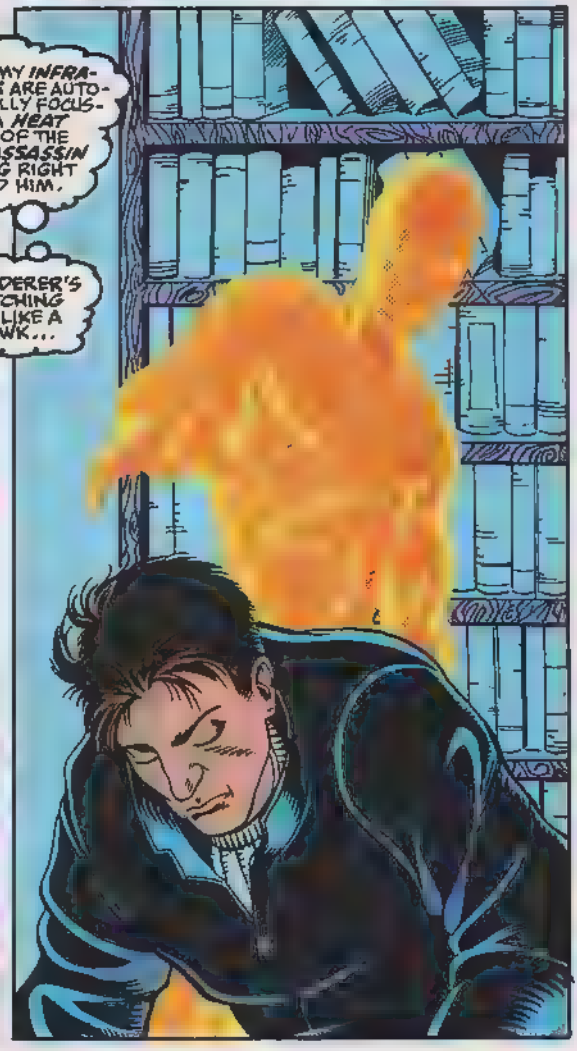

"HOWEVER, WHEN ADVANCED IDEA MECHANICS HIJACKED ASHLEY'S CHARTER FLIGHT, I MYSELF WAS FORCED TO USE THE POWERS OF THE NIGHTWATCH COSTUME--
"-- ENHANCED VITALITY, CLINGING DARKNESS, AND AN ANIMATE CAPE OF UNKNOWN MATERIAL THAT RESPONDED TO MY THOUGHTS LIKE EXTRA LIMBS -- TO INFILTRATE THE TERRORISTS DURING TAKE-OFF.
"UNFORTUNATELY, I WASN'T MAN ENOUGH TO WIELD THAT POWER...
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
SOOPH!
THWAK
SAKK!
THWAK
CLOAK'S COMPLETELY OUT OF CONTROL...
...AND THESE SHOTS ARE FLYING BLINDLY INTO THE SPARKING FUSELAGE--
UHFF...
...NOW THE CAPE'S THROWING ME RIGHT OUT INTO OPEN--
BAROOM
ASHLEEEY!
"THE IDENTIFICATION OF 'KEVIN TRENCH'S' UNSCHEDULED PRESENCE AMONG THE IMMEDIATE CASUALTIES SIMPLIFIED MY GUILT-RIDDEN DISAPPEARANCE FROM CIVILIZATION.
"BUT I SOON ACCEPTED THAT MY FUTURE SELF HAD SOMEHOW BROUGHT THE DANGEROUS--AND SEEMINGLY INDESTRUCTIBLE--NIGHTWATCH GEAR BACK THROUGH TIME...
"... PRESUMABLY FROM NEW YORK IN THE 90'S ACCORDING TO THE CRYPTIC NEWSPAPER ARTICLE.
"SO I DESPERATELY REASONED THAT 'MY' TRAGIC MISTAKE COULD BE CORRECTED SIMPLY BY REFUSING TO BE AT HIS POINT OF DEPARTURE AT THE PRE-DETERMINED TIME--
"--UNTIL THE UNEXPECTED ARRIVAL OF A NEAR-DEAD CASTAWAY TOOK THE MATTER OUT OF MY HANDS ONCE AGAIN.
"AND WHEN THE MAN I EVENTUALLY CAME TO KNOW AS GAUNTLET BETRAYED ME BY STEALING A POWER-GLOVE...

...I WAS FORCED TO CHASE HIM BACK TO THIS CURSED CITY TO RECOVER MY POTENTIALLY-CATASTROPHIC LEGACY. *
*WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #97-100. --ERIC
OF COURSE, I'D ALREADY EARNED A SINGULAR ADVANTAGE OVER MY INEXPERIENCED AND VENGEANCE-DRIVEN PREY--
--THANKS TO MY LONG YEARS OF FORGING A MEASURE OF CONTROL OVER THE NIGHTWATCH COSTUME AND ITS UNHEALTHY EFFECTS ON THE HUMAN NERVOUS SYSTEM.
WOOSH
PASSIVE RESISTANCE AGAINST DESTINY OBVIOUSLY FAILED MISERABLY...
...SO IT'S TIME TO TAKE A MORE ACTIVE STANCE.
THE FULL NEWSPAPER ARTICLE OFFERED ONLY ONE NEW PIECE OF THE PUZZLE...
...BUT THERE ARE ENOUGH UPDRAFTS IN THESE STEEL-AND-GLASS CANYONS TO CARRY ME DOWNTOWN THROUGH MY OWN PERSONAL SHADOWS --
--AND BACK TO THE EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS.
HOPEFULLY, A THOROUGH SEARCH OF THE CURRENT HEAD OF THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT'S OFFICE WILL REVEAL--
SKRAASH
AIIEEE!

NOT LIKELY, FRIEND--
WHFF
THANK GOD...
THWAP

--NIGHTWATCH IS NO ANGEL.
UNCONSCIOUS SECURITY GUARD'S SAFE ON THE ROOF FOR THE MOMENT...

...BUT I'M TOO LATE TO HELP HIS PARTNER.
AT FIRST GLANCE, THE DEAD MAN APPEARS TO BE MOMENTARILY STANDING WITHOUT SUPPORT...
...BUT MY INFRA-LENSES ARE AUTOMATICALLY FOCUSING ON A HEAT TRACE OF THE SILENT ASSASSIN STANDING RIGHT BEHIND HIM.
MURDERER'S WATCHING ME LIKE A HAWK...



...BUT HE SEEMS TO THINK I'M STILL UNAWARE OF HIS PRESENCE.
CULPRIT'S OUTFIT APPARENTLY DISTORTS LIGHT AROUND HIS FORM, EFFECTIVELY RENDERING HIM INVISIBLE TO THE NAKED EYE--
--AND SUSPICIOUSLY SIMILAR TO THE EFFECT MY ELDER SELF ATTRIBUTED TO THAT DEADLY CAMOUFLAGE CADRE A DECADE AGO.
THIS ONE'S RELYING ON THE SENTRY'S BODY TO DISTRACT ME WHILE HE FINISHES THE SEARCH THAT HIS VICTIMS PRESUMABLY INTERRUPTED...
"...AND IT APPEARS THE THIEF JUST FOUND WHAT HE CAME FOR."
COMMUNICATION CANCELLATION DUE TO DANGEROUS FAILURE
FOLDER DISAPPEARED AS SOON AS IT ENTERED HIS WARP-FIELD...
THWOOP
...BUT YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE WITH THAT FILE, KILLER!
KLIK
CUT HIM OFF AT THE DOOR... BUT HE WAS READY FOR ME--
--THE ABRUPT WARMTH OF THE OVERHEAD LIGHTS IS MOMENTARILY OBSCURING CAMOUFLAGE'S HEAT-SIGNATURE.
NOW HE'S TRAPPED SOMEWHERE IN THIS ROOM AND IT LOOKED LIKE--
PZOW
PZOW

THWAK
--HE HAD A GUN.
UHFF...
MISSED MY ACTUAL BODY, CHUMP--AND THE COSTUME "HEALS" ITSELF FAR FASTER THAN IT CAN BE DESTROYED...
...TAKE IT FROM SOMEBODY WHO TRIED EVERYTHING.
--FROM A MAN FOREVER SURROUNDED BY HIS OWN DARKNESS...
AND YOU CAN'T HIDE IN THE LIGHT--
...IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE.
YOU B-BROKE MY H-HAND.
APPARENTLY INTERRUPTING YOUR CIRCUITRY PATHS ENOUGH TO EXPOSE YOU COMPLETELY, CAMOUFLAGE--
HOW COULD YOU IDENTIFY ME...? THIS EXPERIMENTAL TECHNOLOGY'S STILL CLASSIFIED--
YAARGH!
NO--!
ANOTHER LIFE SNUFFED OUT RIGHT BEFORE MY VERY EYES...
...BUT THIS TIME I RECOGNIZE TRACE ODORS OF CHEMICAL ACIDS EMITTED BY THE CORPSE.

THE COVETED DOCUMENTS MUST HAVE VAPORIZED IN CAMOUFLAGE'S DAMAGED WARP-FIELD...
...BUT MY OLD STOMPING GROUNDS HERE MIGHT CONTAIN SOME OTHER--
--CLUE?
ASHLEY!?
SHE'S STILL... ALIVE!
FREEZE, KILLER...
...DOCTOR CROIX'S OFFICE IS COMPLETELY OFF-LIMITS UNTIL THE CONCLUSION OF THE MORELLE PROJECT!
AND THE POLICE ARE BOUND TO HAVE SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT THESE BODIES--!
THEY WILL HAVE TO WAIT...
...UNTIL NIGHTWATCH HIMSELF FINALLY UNEARTHS THE NECESSARY ANSWERS!
MY INTERVENTION TONIGHT THWARTED AN OVER-QUALIFIED PETTY THIEF AND SAVED AN INNOCENT LIFE, BUT THIS SITUATION GETS MORE AND MORE BIZARRE BY THE MINUTE...
...AND I HAVE TO FIND ASHLEY CROIX BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE FOR ALL OF US!
NIGHTWATCH'S QUEST FOR THE GRIM TRUTH ABOUT HIMSELF CONTINUES IN UPCOMING ISSUES OF WEB OF SPIDER-MAN...!

BULLPEN BULLETINS

NEL TELLS

Over two years ago executive editor **Carl Potts**, VP Publishing **Mike Hobson** and VP Direct Sales **Carol Kalish** and I chowed down at a local eatery and laid the groundwork for what was to be the most ambitious comic book project ever undertaken.

The long-awaited and much talked about result will hit the shops in April. We're calling it EPIC BATTLES OF THE CIVIL WAR and it is, I assure you, unlike any comic book you have ever held in your hands.

For me, editing this series became an incredible eye-opening journey down the darkest corridors of American history. A period when brother fought against brother; when former classmates stood opposite one another across the blood-soaked battlefields of a torn nation.

Working with a team of writers and artists who lived the many months of research and execution side-by-side with me and assistant editor **Richard Ashford** was historical heavyweight, *American Heritage*, which acted as consultant and opened its over-flowing library files for our use.

Each book, 96 pages in trade paperback format, covers the story of two famous battles. In addition to the spectacularly illustrated stories, we've included maps and text pieces to help you appreciate this very special reading experience. Each book also has a double gatefold cover that literally pulls you into the action and suspense of the battles.

The hype simply can't do this one justice. You'll be in the shops, anyway. Just check this one out and let us know what you think. You will not be disappointed.

NEL

— Nel Yomtov

A popular joke on the Blue Area of the Moon goes like this:

1st Inhuman: It's raining cats and dogs out there.

2nd Inhuman: How do you know?

1st Inhuman: I just stepped on Lockjaw!

The joke is a lot funnier if you're an Inhuman. Actually, Lockjaw is a great dog. He's been working his tail off lately so we thought we'd throw him a skeleton (a bone just wouldn't cut it)

Just about the only thing a dog can't do is get into the new **Clive Barker** art exhibit at the Bess Cutler Gallery in Manhattan. The exhibit started on March 19 and runs through April 24.

THE BULL'S EYE
by Barry Dutter & Rick Parker
AT THE CLIVE BARKER EXHIBIT...
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS PIN-HEAD PAINTING! NOTICE THE SURREALISM... THE ABSTRACT NATURE... OR THE...

By now, some of you may think we're Barkering up the wrong tree by talking about Clive's artwork. Not at all. In addition to tearing your soul apart with his literary and cinematic masterpieces, like HELLRAISER and NIGHTBREED, Clive is also a very talented artist! Now is your chance to follow Clive from the netherworld to the art world, and see his original drawings of everyone's favorite Cenobite, Pinhead. Clive promises that all the drawings in the show are "fantastical," adding "there are things in the show that the Motion Picture Association of America wouldn't allow me to put up on the screen." Clive is hard at work on his latest HELLRAISER sequel, as well as launching the all-new "Barker-verse" here at Marvel, and a monthly series featuring ol' Needle-Nose himself ... Pinhead! Pinhead will be practicing his own brand of attack-upuncture starting this July. But don't worry about him — he's paper-trained.

A few Marveloids may have to do some paper-training of their own as they recently added some new puppies to their litters. First up is INVADERS artist **Dave Hoover**, whose wife **Karen** gave birth to a lovely daughter, **Lauren,** a few months back. The baby showed up seven weeks early, and Dave's been workin' like a dog ever since, putting in many hard day's nights — and a few dog-day afternoons.

Pit-Bullpenner **Ariane Lenshoek-Pinheiro** (no relation to Pinhead) also recently celebrated the arrival of a new Invader into her home. Ariane left staff in December, so that she and her lovely husband, **Orlando,** could welcome little **Jade** into the world. (With a daughter named Jade, you can tell Ariane works as a colorist!) In addition to adding her magnificent hues (no relation to Adam Hughes) to IRON MAN each month, you can also find Ariane's inking in this year's AVENGERS ANNUAL.

Another hot dog who bolted from staff like a greyhound out of the gate is "Big" **Barry Dutter**, who recently had some book or other about television published with **Rick Parker.** The name of the book escapes us at the moment. These days, Barry is getting so much writing work, he's living in the deadline doghouse! Now that Barry is off the leash, **Mike Rockwitz** has collared a new assistant, **Joe Andreani** — which only goes to show that every dog will have his day and every cat gets nothing. Joe is perhaps best known as the intern who had his ankle broken under mysterious circumstances during a Marvel/DC softball game a year or so ago. Reports of Kryptonite on the field are still being investigated.

Those are all the bones we have to pick with you this week. Be here next time for another look into the Doghouse of Ideas!

HYPELINE: ON SALE THIS WEEK

- **ALPHA FLIGHT #121:** Alpha heads to the U.S. so **Spidey** and **Wolverine** can guest star!
- **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #378: Venom** is spewing venom at **Carnage,** and **Shriek** thinks it's a scream!
- **BARBIE #30:** Skipper's home on the range as a rootin', tootin' cowgirl!
- **CIVIL WAR SERIES #1:** It's just like a PBS mini-series ... but you don't have to pledge any donations!
- **CIVIL WAR SERIES #2:** More action than the Infinity War — it's the Battle of Gettysburg!
- **DARKHOLD #9:** Who is **Diabolique,** and why is she saying those terrible things about me?
- **DR. STRANGE ANNUAL #3:** Introducing **Killian!** Will he become Doc's new disciple?
- **GHOST RIDER #38:** If the Scarecrow only had a brain, he wouldn't take on Ghost Rider!
- **GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #37:** Team-up with the Galactic Guardians against **Dormammu!**
- **HELLRAISER: BOOK OF THE DAMNED #4:** Find out how much **Pinhead** can lift/press!
- **INVADERS #2 OF 4:** After 50 years ... the return of the *original* **Vision!**
- **LANCE BARNES: POST NUKE DICK #3 OF 4:** Lance gets mauled at the mall!
- **MARVEL COMICS #130: Wolverine**/Lynx! **Ghost Rider**/Typhoid Mary! Talk about your odd couples!
- **MIDNIGHT MEN #1 OF 4:** It's an all-Chaykin extravaganza!
- **PENDRAGON 2 #12:** It's mystical ... it's technical ... it's a MyS-TECH wars cross-over!
- **PUNISHER WAR ZONE #16:** Punny gets his memory back! Let's see ... I remember killing some criminals ...
- **QUASAR #47:** Quasar takes **Thunderstrike** on his quest to get his quantum-bands back!
- **RAVAGE 2099 #7:** Ravage acquires a super power! Welcome to the Marvel Universe!
- **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #210:** Featuring the Spider-God and his whole eight-legged family!
- **SECRET DEFENDERS #4: Ghost Rider, Punisher** and **Sleepwalker** are on the road to find Roadkill!
- **SILVER SABLE #13:** Sable unleashes her rage against **Cage!**
- **SILVER SURFER TPB: REBIRTH OF THANOS:** Reprinting the story of the biggest comeback since Alan Thicke!
- **SLEEPWALKER #25:** Sleepy wakes up to find a new *origin* and a new direction in this double-sized issue!
- **SPIDER-MAN TPB: ASSASSINATION PLOT:** Available again!
- **WILD THING #3:** SHIELD may be cancelled, but they can still make guest appearances!
- **WOLVERINE #70:** Wolvie and Rogue in an explosive battle with **Javron!**
- **WONDER MAN #22:** Simon is fighting **Death!** Hint to Simon: challenge him to a game of Twister!
- **X-FACTOR #91:** X-Factor battles **Armageddon!** As Def Leppard once asked, Armageddonit?
- **X-MEN ADVENTURES #8:** Is Colossus a *killer*? Only Ralph Macchio knows for sure!

MAGIC PENALTY VOICE DRUMS ATLANTIC CITY FLU MINORITY CULTURE BRAIN CANDY BODY MODIFICATION CATHOLIC WOOD CHIPPER END OF LIFE DECISIONS CRUELTY FREE FAST TRACK CLEANERS PLAYABLE DEMO
FACE VALUE HANDICAPABLE BANDWIDTH POWER SURGE PROTECTOR WILL SAY I KNOWED YOU TRAINING EASY BUTTER AUTOMOTIVE COMPOSITE CONSUMER DEBT BECOMING CHANGE TOKEN
BILITY LINGUA FRANCA FLOP SWEAT VILILIGO BULLPEN BORDERLINE BLATHER CHEMICALLY INCONVENIENCED GRAPHIC ACTIVITY